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CRIME FITS THE BILL
BERLUSCONI LEGISLATES HIS WAY OUT OF JAM {pages 14-15}

BIEBER UNDER SIEGE IN HOLY LAND DISH {page 37}

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, April 14, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

CN. Creature

▶ Joe Eppele, a member of the Toronto Argonauts and a native of Squamish, B.C., poses next to the CN Tower in the sasquatch suit he wanted to wear, in honour of his hometown, while climbing the tower's 1,776 stairs today to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund.

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bigfoot forced to sit out CN stair climb

Regulations state Toronto Argo Joe Eppele can't scale the CN Tower in his sasquatch suit, but he can wear it before and after. The six-foot-seven, 307-pound Eppele will join hundreds of others in walking up — and then down — more than 150 flights of stairs as part of WWF Canada's 21st annual climb.

Feds race to define pot paradigm shift

Ottawa has three months to fix federal medical marijuana program after judge ruled it unconstitutional, struck down laws against possession and production of cannabis

Lawmakers and enforcers are scrambling for guidance on how to react to an Ontario Superior Court decision quashing Canada's marijuana laws.

The government is awaiting direction from the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, said Tim Vail, spokesperson for Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, who is currently running for re-election in Nunavut.

"We are disappointed with this decision," Vail wrote in an emailed statement. "The independent Public Prosecution Service has to decide whether to appeal this decision."

The Public Prosecution Service is studying the judge's decision and has 30 days to appeal the ruling, which it is expected to do.

In the meantime, the Ontario Provincial Police will continue to enforce marijuana laws — even though they may cease to exist in less than 90 days. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cancer patient's stash seized {page 3}

Local

A la Cart must go: City staff

Report recommends troubled program be 'discontinued immediately' {page 6}

Billi in sight for Simon?

TV judge stacking chips at furious pace {page 37}

Cloak and dagger in Montreal

Former controller under investigation for email tampering {pages 16-17}

Wasn't this in a movie already?

Man seeking 50% share of Facebook submits email exchange with Mark Zuckerberg {page 24}

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Advisory committees on chopping block

The Ford administration says waste-cutting is its motive for moving to scrap 21 citizen-dominated committees that advise council on everything from cycling to pedestrians to aboriginal affairs.

But critics charged yesterday that axing the committees — which are made up of volunteers, including some councillors, and have no budget — is an undemocratic move meant to shut out anyone with opposing views.

"They only want to talk to some people. They only want some of the information, not all of it," Coun. Adam Vaughan said.

A staff review requested by Mayor Rob Ford led to recommendations to terminate 10 committees outright, citing them as redundant, dormant or having completed their mandates.

"It's gotten out of control. We've got to start cutting costs any way we can that's reasonable."
DEPUTY MAYOR DOUG HOLYDAY

A further 11 committees would be disbanded without reason, but bureaucrats would consider whether to use other civic engagement methods such as town halls or social media.

The recommendations from city manager Joe Pennachetti are outlined in a report going to next week's meeting of the executive committee, chaired by Ford.

Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday said the advisory committees are too expensive for a city facing a $774-million deficit in next year's budget.

The report itself says scrapping the committees would have no financial impact.

"There'll be savings, believe me," Holyday said. "The savings is going to be in staff time, and that can be enormous."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ "What they're trying to do here is cut off access to city hall for a significant number of people, and it's unacceptable," Coun. Adam Vaughan said of the Ford administration.

'This was a death sentence for him'

DAN ROBSON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Robert Neron, who is battling cancer, faces drug charges after smoking marijuana legally for more than a decade.

Cancer patient was waiting for renewal of medical marijuana licence when police raided his house and seized pot plants

Robert Neron had been smoking marijuana legally for more than a decade when the OPP raided his home, took his plants and turned off his power.

The 45-year-old cancer patient had been waiting 10 months for Health Canada to renew his licence to use medical marijuana when his home was ransacked and cleared of his cannabis plants in March.

Neron lives in Kapuskasing, about six hours north of Sudbury, and temperatures dipped below -30 C at the time.

"It was like living in the bush," he said in Toronto yesterday, where he has been living with friends since the power went off in his house.

The power remained off for a month, until Neron received a court order to have it turned back on.

"This was a death sentence for him," said his lawyer, Ron Marzel, a prominent advocate for program reforms to give sick people access to medical cannabis.

"This is a sick person who has been licensed for 10 years."

They were speaking to media in support of an Ontario Superior Court ruling that the federal medical marijuana program is unconstitutional because patients must resort to illegal means to obtain the drug.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charged

▶ Robert Neron faces charges for the possession, cultivation and production of cannabis resin, commonly used to make hash. Neron says the resin is more effective than regular marijuana for treating his symptoms.

1 news

As beatification nears, Pope John Paul II's critics sharpen their knives. Scan code for story.

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Refugee case highlights a 'difficult issue'

Appeal court reserves decision in custody case

In a case that highlights the competing rights of children, parents and refugees, a dozen lawyers argued in a Toronto court this week over whether a 13-year-old refugee was wrongfully removed from Canada and should be allowed to return.

After two days of hearings, the Court of Appeal reserved its decision yesterday.

Should it rule in favour of Josette Rosenzweig Issasi, now 14, the question is: How to bring back the girl, a non-citizen whose mother has sole custody of her in Cancun, Mexico.

Josette was granted refugee status last May based on a claim she was abused by her mother.

She was living with an aunt in Toronto.

Following a subsequent court order she was seized from her high school in October and returned to her mother, Marlen Issasi Rodriguez, who claimed the girl was "illegally retained" in Canada.

Her father, a refugee claimant in Norway, filed an appeal, with human rights groups also arguing the removal violated the girl's rights as a refugee.

"This is a difficult issue dealing with the conflicting rights of children, parents and refugees," Urszula Kaczmarczyk, a lawyer representing the Attorney General of Canada, told the three-judge panel.

The federal government is reluctant to let the girl back in and has asked the court not to allow her to use Canadian consular offices as a sanctuary.

Enforcement of a Canadian court order is impossible on foreign soil because it is out of its jurisdiction, warned Kaczmarczyk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Judge's order

- The order to remove Josette Rosenzweig Issasi was made by Superior Court of Ontario Justice George Czutrin under terms of The Hague Convention, an international treaty that deals with cross-border custody disputes.
- At issue in this week's appeal hearing was the manner in which Czutrin issued the order Sept. 21 and its execution 23 days later.

Toronto. Première

▶ Actress Kim Cattrall turns heads on Bloor Street West.

TODD GILLIS/FOR METRO

Meet Kim, a teen's heartthrob

Sex In The City star Kim Cattrall attends the Canadian premiere of Meet Monica Velour yesterday in Toronto. The movie is described as an offbeat comedy in which an awkward teenager sets off on a road trip to meet his favourite porn star — played by Cattrall. It hits Canadian screens May 13.

Is 'Israeli apartheid' hate? No, says official

Toronto's top bureaucrat says the controversial name of activist group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid does not violate the city's anti-discrimination policy.

But Mayor Rob Ford and his allies plan to proceed with their effort to deny funding to the Pride festival if the group is allowed to participate.

Ford said in March that "taxpayers' dollars should not go toward funding hate speech."

City manager Joe Pennachetti disputed Ford's opinion in a report released yesterday, saying "there is no legal precedent" to suggest the phase "Israeli apartheid" constitutes a hate crime or a violation of the provincial human rights code.

Pennachetti also said the phrase does not "impede the provision of services and employment" to any group.

And he urged council not to consider the presence of the activists alone when deciding whether to fund Pride.

The decision, he said, should "be made based on the nature of the parade itself, not the participation of a single group."

Ford's office signalled that the report did not change the mayor's mind.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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▶ Joe Pennachetti

The Pride file

- In 2010, Pride received $123,807 from the city, plus more than $200,000 worth of services such as cleanup and policing.
- The festival has not yet made a decision on the participation of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid.
- A panel of "dispute resolution officers" will rule on the issue if a complaint is filed, as is almost certain.

'Gardener' jailed

A 44-year-old Mississauga man, Bans Truong, has been sentenced to 37 months in a U.S. federal prison for helping grow marijuana in Nebraska.

A drug task force found more than 2,200 plants and 1.7 kilograms of harvested marijuana in searches in March 2010.

A lawyer said Truong was just the gardener.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE DOCUMENT

▶ A pressure transducer

Sentence reduced in nuke case

The Ontario Court of Appeal has reduced by three months the sentence of a Toronto man who tried to send nuclear devices to Iran.

Mahmoud Yadegari, 36, was sentenced to four years and three months in jail last July.

Iranian-born Yadegari used a small company operated out of his Toronto home. He tried to export pressure transducers — hand-sized instruments that convert pressure measurements into electrical signals for computers and other devices.

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Lingerie football no gimmick, says player

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Torkwase Fraser, a Toronto native who played last year for the San Diego Seduction in the Lingerie Football League. Fraser is trying out for the Los Angeles Temptation this season.

LFL has been criticized as being tawdry and blatantly sexist

Don't be fooled by the pretty smiles and sultry glamour shots, says Torkwase Fraser. The women of the Lingerie Football League are bona fide competitors.

"When you go and watch the sport you see serious athletes playing football," says Fraser, a Toronto native and former pro sprinter who last season played for the now-defunct San Diego Seduction.

The controversial sport spectacle, in which scantily clad women play a 7-on-7 version of full-contact football, announced Tuesday that Toronto will join its league this fall as its first Canadian franchise.

The as-yet unnamed team is expected to play its two home games at Ricoh Coliseum — the Exhibition Place arena operated for the city by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Ltd. — though a formal announcement is expected soon.

League commissioner Mitchell Mortaza said he is currently negotiating with two potential franchise owners: A "prominent sports group," which Mortaza said already owns a professional sports team in Canada, and a "prominent real estate group" based in Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY COUNCIL

Residents win fight over lights

Toronto city council has left residents of Scarborough's Queensgrove Road in the dark.

And that's just the way most of them like it.

Council voted almost unanimously yesterday not to install streetlights on Queensgrove Road, near Kingston Road and Warden Avenue

The short, quiet street on the Scarborough Bluffs is one of the last in the city without streetlights. Residents have voted against them at least four times in the last 40 years in an attempt to preserve their street's quaint rural ambiance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trial goes from strange to stranger

A just-completed Toronto murder trial went from strange to stranger when a juror sent the judge a note entitled "Threatening Behaviour By A Member Of The Jury."

Juror No. 5, she alleged, had indicated he thought Canadian women were "no good" and described one female witness as "cuckoo."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

23 Amir Kassim is guilty of the first-degree murder of Muluka Ali, 23, his ex-common law wife.

Staff calls street food project a 'failure'

Toronto's "a la Cart" street food pilot project is a failure that should be shut down immediately, say senior city staff who also urge council to consider expanding menu options for all food vendors.

The report to the executive committee, made public yesterday, recommends that "the a la Cart street food pilot project be discontinued immediately, prior to Season 3 of the planned pilot project."

The handful of vendors still participating in the three-year project, which was to conclude at the end of this year, should be allowed to continue and apply for regular vendor permits "if and when they become available." They should be reimbursed for 2010 location fees and pay no fees through 2013, on condition "they be required to continue to offer healthy, diverse menu options," not including hotdogs.

They would be freed of requirements to use hulking, malfunctioning $30,000 carts originally mandated by the city and told to remove the a la Cart signage that was intended to signal a healthy, ethnic alternative to the dogs and fries that dominate Toronto's street food.

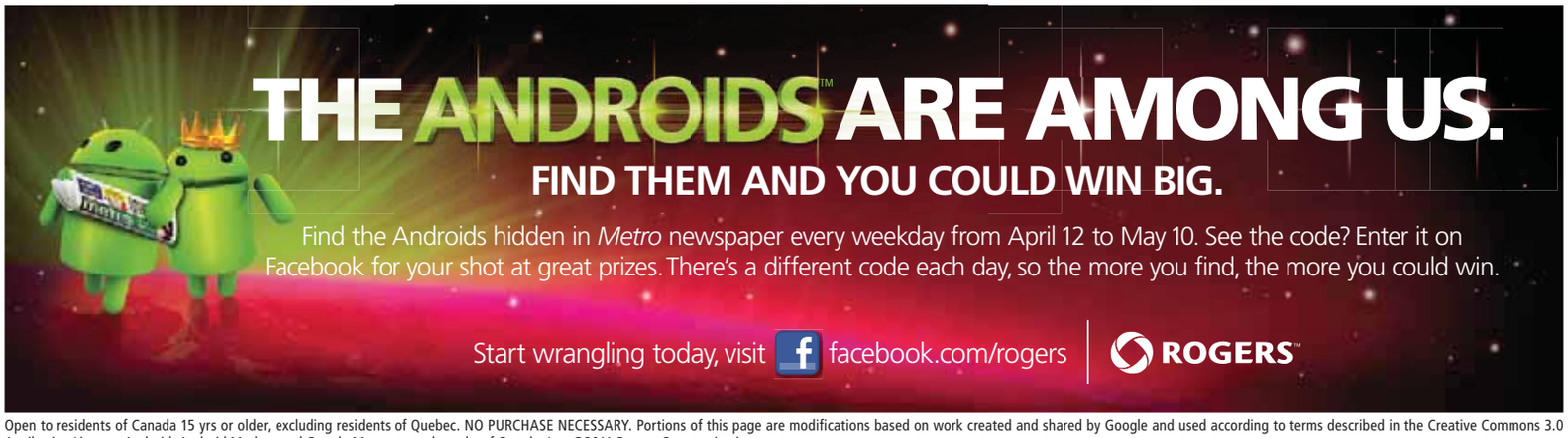
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ A report released yesterday recommends the a La Cart street food pilot project be discontinued immediately, prior to Season 3 of the planned pilot project.

Diverse food

▶ **Report** "Street food is an entrepreneurial business that cannot be institutionalized. If the city wants to see more diverse food offerings, it must be prepared to accept the eccentric character of street carts," wrote hospitality consultant Cameron Hawkins.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Province could use federal debate format, McGuinty says

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Premier Dalton McGuinty says he thinks his federal counterparts need to spend more time talking about health-care plans during this election.

Premier says he likes the 6-minute, 1-on-1 debate format

The new federal debate style of a six-minute, one-on-one exchange appeals to Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The premier watched the federal leaders' debate Tuesday and said he "liked the style of format."

McGuinty didn't trounce the idea of adopting it here in a debate prior to the Oct. 6 provincial vote.

"There were fewer occasions when people were trying to shout over each other and there was more opportunity for Canadians to glean more substance from the interaction," McGuinty said yesterday.

However, the premier thought the leaders neglected to spend enough time discussing health care.

Medicare consumes half of Ontario's budget. The province's annual health costs are $47 billion a year. By 2013-14, costs will rise another $5 billion.

"I understand the leaders are all committing to six per cent growth," McGuinty said.

"That sounds good but not that long ago the federal government was paying for 50 per cent of our health-care costs and today they are paying for 24 per cent."

Six per cent growth on 24 per cent is a "heck of a lot less" than six per cent growth on 50 per cent, he said.

McGuinty wants to see the federal government, the provinces and territories commit to a 10-year health plan.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Conservative candidate asks for 'ethnic costumes'

A group Immigration Minister Jason Kenney once characterized as harbouring "hateful sentiments" toward Israel and Jews was invited to wear "ethnic costumes" for a photo op with Conservative Leader Stephen Harper.

The Canadian Arab Federation, which lost government funding in 2009 over its criticism of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, says it received an email Tuesday night from the office of Etobicoke Centre Conservative candidate Ted Opitz asking the group to be part of a campaign rally with Harper tonight.

"We, at the Etobicoke Centre riding, are trying to create a photo op about all the multicultural groups that support Ted Opitz, our local Conservative candidate and the prime minister," reads the email sent by Zeljko (Zed) Zidaric with the subject line: "Opportunity — Thursday night with the prime minister."

"The opportunity is to have up to 20 people in national folklore costumes which represent their ethnic backgrounds. These people will sit in front row behind the PM — great TV photo op."

The email continues: "We are seeking representation from the Arab community. Do you have any cultural groups that would like to participate by having someone at the event in an ethnic costume?"

FACEBOOK

▶ Ted Opitz

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Discard

A Conservative party spokesman called the email a "mistake." The staffer who sent it was dismissed, according to Opitz's office.

▶ The president of the Canadian Arab Federation said the email suggests the Conservatives view members of ethnic communities as "props" to be used at political events.

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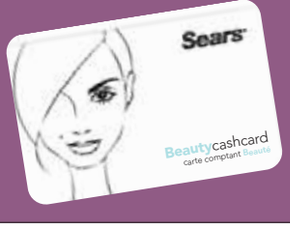

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Nice guys no longer

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Conservative supporters rally outside the Ottawa conference centre last night where the televised French-language leaders' debate took place.

French TV debate is a donnybrook

Election 2011

The federal party leaders switched languages and shifted gears last night.

After Tuesday's comparatively stiff and staid English debate the four leaders ramped up the rhetoric in a French-language donnybrook.

Stephen Harper's understanding of Canada's system of government came under sustained attack and the exchange on the legitimacy of coalitions was just the beginning of a sharp-elbowed evening.

Corporate tax cuts, the federal long-gun registry, the Tory agenda on criminal justice, harmonized sales taxes — and the import of "Republican values" from the U.S. — made for a rather less comfortable evening for the front-running prime minister.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, looking more animated and engaged than Tuesday, got into several pitched battles with his rivals

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power play?

- Jack Layton tried to portray Gilles Duceppe as the coach of a hockey team with no offensive players.
- "You and your team, you're like a hockey team made up of defencemen only," Layton quipped. "The NDP can score goals."

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	Total before taxes:	$230.24	
	HST	$29.93	
	Total for Wireless:	$260.17	

Wireless usage summary ending Aug 12/10

Type of usage	Usage Description	You used	Unit of Measure	Total cost ($)
Voice	1000 Eve/Weekend	8.00	MinSec	0.00
Voice	100 Weekday Minutes	100.00	MinSec	0.00
Voice	Airtime Charges			$35.35
Voice	Long Distance			$67.92
Data	Data and Other Charges			$72.99
	Total wireless usage:			$176.26

DATA GUIDE ?
1 MB = 1024 kb
1 GB = 1048576 kb
1 GB = 1024 mb

TOTAL AMOUNT

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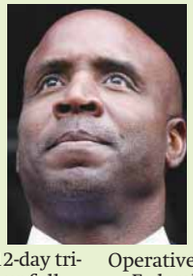
BARRY BONDS

Baseball star found guilty of obstruction

A U.S. federal jury convicted Barry Bonds of a single charge of obstruction of justice yesterday, but failed to reach a verdict on the three counts at the heart of allegations that he knowingly used steroids and human growth hormone and lied to a grand jury about it.



Following a 12-day trial and almost four full days of deliberation, the jury of eight women and four men could reach a unanimous verdict only on one of the four counts against Bonds.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston declared a mistrial on the others, a messy end to a case that put the slugger — and baseball itself — under a cloud of suspicion for more than three years.

Bonds sat stone-faced through the verdict, displaying no emotion.

His legal team immediately asked that the guilty verdict be thrown out. Illston did not rule on the request and set May 20 for a hearing in the case.

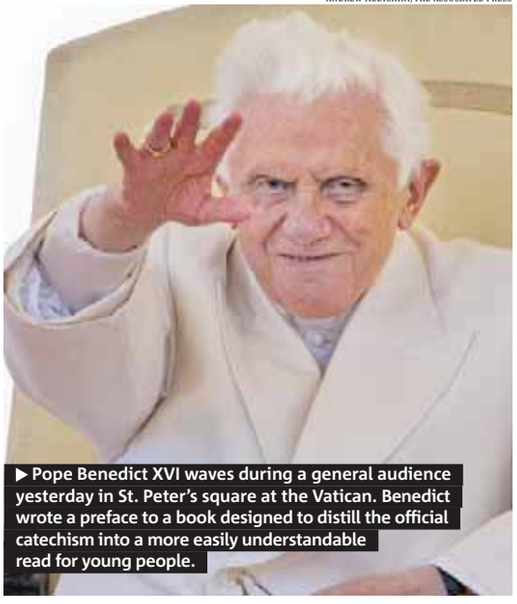
The case also represented the culmination of the federal investigation into the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative steroids ring.

Federal prosecutors and the Justice Department will have to decide whether to retry Bonds on the unresolved counts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lost in translation: Birth control is holy?

ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Pope Benedict XVI waves during a general audience yesterday in St. Peter's square at the Vatican. Benedict wrote a preface to a book designed to distill the official catechism into a more easily understandable read for young people.

Youth book implies the Holy See approves euthanasia and contraception

The Vatican has again been embarrassed by a botched translation of its teachings, with the launch yesterday of an error-plagued book that implies the Holy See approves of contraception and euthanasia.

The errors came to light during a Vatican news conference launching "Youcat: Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church," a youth-focused compilation of the thick volume of core church teachings. The book, a project of the Austrian, German and Swiss bishops' conferences, is to be given to young people attending this year's World Youth Day in Madrid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Botched translation

Monsignor Rino Fisichella, an Italian who heads the Vatican's evangelization office, seemed aghast at the euthanasia terminology.

- Each translation had a high-ranking churchman vouch for its accuracy.
- "Youcat" was prepared in 17 languages — 30 more translations are planned.
- Pope Benedict XVI wrote a preface to the book and on the back cover he is quoted as exhorting: "Study this catechism! This is my heartfelt desire."

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Berlusconi turns tricks with bills

- Recent legislation helps Italian prime minister pull a rabbit from a hat
- Bills pass despite activist's protests and filibustering by opposition

Italy's lower chamber of parliament approved legislation yesterday that would cut the length of trials in Italy and effectively end an ongoing bribery case against Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The lower Chamber of Deputies approved the bill 314-296, amid protests inside and outside the chamber.

The measure now passes to the Senate, where Berlusconi's forces have a solid majority.

The bill is the latest piece of legislation Berlusconi's forces have pushed through parliament that critics say are tailor-made to suit his interests, following on the heels of a partial immunity bill for top Italian officials passed last year.

The bill, if approved, would cut the length of trials for some defendants who haven't been previously convicted.

The measure will effectively end a trial where Berlusconi is accused of bribing British lawyer David Mills to lie in court in the 1990s to protect the premier's interests. Mills was convicted in 2009 of having taken a $600,000 bribe, but the guilty verdict was overturned when Italy's highest criminal court ruled the statute of limitations had expired.

The reform legislation makes it virtually impossible for the court to reach a verdict against Berlusconi before the statute of limitations kicks in.

Berlusconi denies wrongdoing in the Mills case and has defended the reform legislation as necessary to unclog Italy's notoriously slow judicial system.

Aside from Berlusconi's own trial, critics say the justice measure puts several important cases at risk, including a case that follows a deadly train explosion in 2009.

The Mills case is one of four active cases against Berlusconi, including a sensational sex trial that began this month in which he is accused of paying for sex with a minor and using his influence to try to cover it up.

Berlusconi has denounced the allegations as laughable and lashed out at prosecutors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GIUSEPPE CACACE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi addresses supporters outside Milan's justice court after a legal hearing over allegations of fiscal fraud and breach of trust in his business interests.

Ties to Libya

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announced in December he would probably step aside at the end of the legislature in 2013. On Tuesday, he said Angelino Alfano could succeed him, strengthening the likelihood that his nearly two decades in power were coming to an end. During a wide-ranging conversation with foreign journalists, Berlusconi also discussed his close ties with Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi. The Italian leader said, because of these ties, he even considered resigning when the international coalition was formed to impose a no-fly zone over Libya.

"I accepted despite the personal difficulties that this decision entailed for me. At one point I even thought it was my duty to resign," he said, adding everybody asked him not to so he stayed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Squad unleashed in

New allegations that official had emails cracked by city controller Follows previous spying allegations

A new permanent anti-corruption unit in Quebec has been given its first mission: Digging into the mounting allegations of espionage at Montreal's city hall.

Public Security Minister Robert Dutil made the announcement yesterday amid allegations a key elected official had his emails cracked by the city's controller.

Mayor Gerald Tremblay and the city administration have been dogged by spying allegations in recent months, beginning with a clandestine investigation into the city's auditor general that came to light earlier in the year.

A day after the province's municipal affairs minister said he was growing tired of the situation, the public security minister dispatched the new unit to look into the matter.

The anti-corruption unit was introduced in February. It is headed by longtime civil servant Robert Lafreniere and its results will be made public.

The unit is based on the New York City's Department of Investigation, which is described as nonpartisan and independent and is tasked with rooting out corruption in public institutions.

The investigation is focused on allegations that Pierre Reid, the city's controller until he was reassigned Monday, opened the emails of council chairman Claude Dauphin.

Tremblay said Reid always acted in good faith but he may have gone too far in opening emails.

Reid is a veteran bureaucrat who has been at the centre of espionage scandals in recent months. The 30-year veteran city employee spearheaded a secret investigation into Montreal auditor general Jacques Bergeron, which came to light in February.

"Maybe members of my administrative team might have gone too far, but the rules are very clear: You cannot investigate elected representatives or their officials," Tremblay said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay addresses allegations yesterday that the president of the Montreal city council, Claude Dauphin, was spied on by the city's controller.

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GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigate construction industry, mayor says

Public Security Minister Robert Dutil said the best way to get to the bottom of the affair is for the province's anti-corruption unit to investigate.

Mayor Gerald Tremblay said Quebec should be looking further than Montreal and be investigating allegations of collusion and corruption in the province's construction industry. The Quebec government has been under pressure to call a public inquiry into the much-maligned construction industry, but has resisted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Indictment looming

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman speaks at a political party convention yesterday in Jerusalem.

- Israel's foreign minister denies corruption allegations
- Suspected of illicitly receiving cash and laundering it

Israel's attorney general announced yesterday that he plans to indict the foreign minister on corruption charges but will allow him a standard final hearing before a charge sheet is issued.

If Avigdor Lieberman is indicted, it would likely force him to resign, badly shaking the coalition government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, possibly forcing an election and putting already stalled Israel-Palestinian peace efforts off for many months.

Lieberman denied the allegations.

Lieberman, a hard-line member of Netanyahu's cabinet, has been under investigation on a variety of charges for many years.

He has complained bitterly that the cloud of investigation was hanging over him as a political weapon to reduce his effectiveness.

Lieberman's party was holding a convention in Jerusalem as the attorney general released his statement at nightfall yesterday.

Lieberman was about to deliver his speech when he was informed of the statement. He delayed his remarks. At the end of a half-hour speech about Israeli domestic and foreign policy, Lieberman briefly referred to the indictment.

"I know and you know that I always acted in accordance with the law, and there is no reason for worry," Lieberman said. "After 15 years, I finally will have an opportunity to prove that I acted lawfully."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ready for statehood: Experts

JOHN THYS/GETTY IMAGES

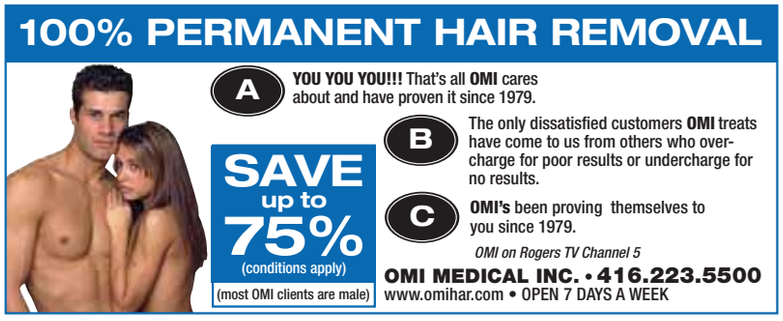
▶ Palestinian National Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad

A group of international negotiators says the Palestinian Authority has succeeded in building the capabilities needed to run a country — and now the political work of a permanent peace just needs to catch up.

The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, which met yesterday in Brussels, cited reports prepared for it by the World Bank, the United Nations, and the International Monetary Fund as saying that the Palestinian Authority is "above the threshold for a functioning state in the key sectors they studied."

The positive assessment came despite the fact that the Gaza Strip, part of any future state, is controlled by Hamas, a rival Palestinian faction that several countries consider a terrorist group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Out of crisis mode, back to school for survivors

- One teacher, 34 students survived from Okawa Elementary School
- Officials say routine is good

The tsunami killed 74 of the 108 students at Okawa Elementary School and all but one of the dozen teachers. The main building is ripped open, with trees jammed into second-floor classrooms, and the gym and playground have been reduced to muddied concrete foundations.

Classes start in a week.

All along Japan's battered northeastern coast, schools have been heavily damaged or converted to shelters, and families are without jobs, permanent homes or cars. But the country is determined to move ahead with one of its rites of spring: The start of the school year in April, even as some parents and children grieve.

At Okawa Elementary, another issue is trust.

Parents are frustrated at the lack of an explanation for its tragedy, when other schools nearby were also heavily damaged but had no deaths.

Officials say establishing routines is a crucial step in rebuilding communities and drawing residents out of crisis mode.

"I'm just not ready to think about school yet. They haven't even found my daughter."

NAOMI HIRATSUKA, WHO LOST HER CHILD KOHARU, A SIXTH GRADER AT OKAWA ELEMENTARY, AND HAS A YOUNGER CHILD ENTERING FIRST GRADE.

The 34 surviving students of Okawa Elementary will begin classes April 21 in four rooms at a nearby school, staying together and treated as a separate school of their own.

"We don't know yet if the school can be rebuilt, but we want to maintain continuity for the students," said Kato Shigemi, an education committee official in Ishinomaki, a devastated riverside community about 350 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Children watch while their father is screened for radiation at a shelter in Fukushima, Japan.

Ivory Coast president attempts to restore order

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara tried to establish order in the days after the country's strongman Laurent Gbagbo was arrested, moving him to a secure location and assuring the public that looting and gunfire will cease, and life will soon return to normal.

"Gbagbo is in a residence under surveillance somewhere in Ivory Coast," Ouattara told reporters at the Golf Hotel.

"There will be charges (against Gbagbo) on a national level and an international level."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama sets stage for U.S. deficit debate

U.S. President Barack Obama called for reducing the federal deficit by $4 trillion in the next decade through a package that includes tax reform, further cuts in domestic and defence spending, and shoring up of federal entitlements, setting the stage for a spirited debate with Republicans.

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MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Barack Obama

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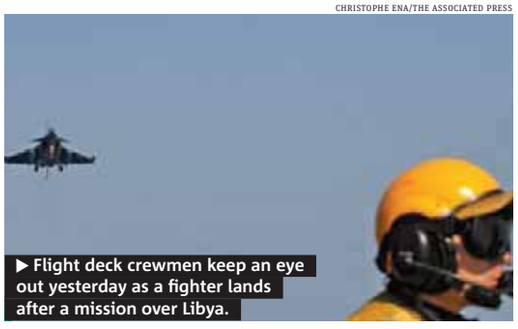

▶ Flight deck crewmen keep an eye out yesterday as a fighter lands after a mission over Libya.

Concealing weapons

French bombers in Libya have trouble detecting Gadhafi's fighter units

As French navy Rafale and Super Etendard fighter-bombers carrying laser-guided bombs catapulted yesterday off the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier into a cloudless Mediterranean sky, officers onboard described the difficulties they face. Despite all the modern technology, troops loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi are harder than ever to identify.

Gadhafi's forces are camouflaging their units to conceal them from detection and attack, officers said.

"There is obviously a degree of savoir-faire ... that we haven't seen before," said the commander of the carrier's air wing.

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Al-Jazeera asks for captured reporters

The Arabic news channel Al-Jazeera is calling on Libyan authorities to release its two reporters.

In a statement yesterday, the network urged Libya to release reporters Ammar al-Hamdan of Norway and Kamel al-Tallou of Britain, who were captured in western Libya in March along with two others, who have been released. The Qatar-based network is "extremely grateful for the support" it has received for the release of its two reporters. However, more efforts are needed to secure the rest of their colleagues' freedom, the statement said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

100 Reporters Without Borders says about 100 foreign reporters are in Libya to cover the conflict between long-time leader Gadhafi and rebel forces.

MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Nicolas Sarkozy and David Cameron

British PM shows strong commitment to rebels

British Prime Minister David Cameron says Britain and France will "leave no stone unturned" as they search for ways to help Libya's rebels topple Moammar Gadhafi.

Cameron made the comments in Paris yesterday where he is to discuss the military operation in Libya with French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Both countries' defence chiefs are also attending.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

U.S. jets still striking Libya

The Pentagon is revealing for the first time that U.S. fighter jets have continued to strike Libyan air defences after turning the mission over to NATO.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said the jets were assigned to NATO and are operating under its command.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diplomats behaving badly

Germany says it has expelled five Libyan diplomats for allegedly pressuring Libyan dissidents in the country.

The move comes a day before a meeting of foreign ministers of the NATO alliance, which is leading a campaign against Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Egyptian anti-riot policemen stand guard yesterday in front of Sharm El Sheikh hospital where former president Hosni Mubarak, 82, was hospitalized with heart problems.

Mubarak detained in hospital

Egypt's former president is being investigated for corruption, abuse of power and killing of protesters He is under a 15-day detention

Egypt's ousted president Hosni Mubarak was put under detention in his hospital room yesterday for investigation on accusations of corruption, abuse of power and killing of protesters.

The detention is a new landmark in the stunning fall of the 82-year-old Mubarak, who only months ago appeared unquestioned in his control of Egypt after nearly 30 years of rule.

"Trying Mubarak and his regime is very important, but what is super important is the political future of Egypt."
AHMED MAHER, CO-FOUNDER OF PROTEST MOVEMENT "THE APRIL 6 GROUP"

Mubarak's two sons, Gamal and Alaa, were also detained for questioning and taken to Cairo's Torah prison, where a string of former top regime figures — including the former prime minister, ruling party chief and Mubarak's chief of staff — are already languishing, facing investigations on corruption.

The move was brought by enormous public pressure on the ruling military, which was handed power when Mubarak stepped down Feb. 11. Tens of thousands protested in Cairo's central Tahrir Square Friday, the biggest rally in weeks, demanding Mubarak and his family be put on trial.

Many in the crowd accused the military of protecting the former president.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three children, mother drown

- One child escapes minivan that was driven into river
- Rescuers find van an hour later in 10 feet of water

A 10-year-old boy escaped through the window of a minivan and swam to shore to get help after his mother drove the van into New York's Hudson River, killing herself and three other children, police said yesterday.

Lashanda Armstrong, 25, drove the minivan into the river off a boat ramp in the city of Newburgh about 8 p.m. Tuesday, shortly after a domestic incident, police said. The van went into the river just six blocks from where the family lived in the faded city about 100 kilometres north of New York City.

Fire Chief Michael Vatter said a passerby saw Lashaun Armstrong emerge from the river, picked up the soaking wet boy and took him to a nearby fire department. Vatter said the boy was so distraught that he had difficulty talking but ultimately told firefighters what happened. Rescuers went immediately to the river but it was too late to save the four victims.

"She was a very good mom. She took care of her kids."

TINA CLAYBOURNE, WHO LIVES NEARBY

In the van with Lashanda Armstrong were Landon Pierre, 5, Lance Pierre, 2, and 11-month-old Lainaina Pierre, police said. Her husband and the father of the three dead children, Jean Pierre, was questioned. Police would not give details of the interview or say if the father had been charged with anything.

Shortly before she drove the van into the river, a relative called police to report a domestic incident at Armstrong's apartment.

Lashanda Armstrong's aunt, Angela Gilliam, who called police, told reporters she spoke to her niece earlier Tuesday and she was "not too good."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Newburgh resident Cynthia Beadle leaves a stuffed teddy bear in the water where a woman drove her car with some other children into the Hudson River Tuesday night in Newburgh, N.Y.

Not an isolated incident

A similar incident occurred in 2006, about 30 kilometres south of Newburgh.

In 2007, Victor Han, of Queens, N.Y., was sentenced to three years of probation after pleading guilty to child endangerment.

Han admitted he knew he was putting his daughters at risk when he stepped out of the family minivan on Bear Mountain in June 2006, leaving them with their mother, 35-year-old Hejin Han.

She then drove the Honda Odyssey off a 300-foot drop, killing herself. The mother was killed but the children somehow survived the plunge.

It's also reminiscent of the case of a South Carolina woman who drowned her young sons in 1994.

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Vancouver $229
Travel Jun 14 - Jun 20/wg — + taxes & fees $298

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Bermuda $268
Travel May 11 - May 18/ac — + taxes & fees $145

Dublin $299
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Family Vacations

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Great Wolf Lodge — taxes and fees included
INCLUDES family suite accom with waterpark pass. Price per person based on a family of 4. Travel May 1 - 30/ggv.

Orlando Air + 7 Nights $209◊
Champions World Resort + taxes & fees $287
INCLUDES accom near *Walt Disney World* Resort. Departs Jun 12/ggv/wg. Price is per person based on a family of 4. ADD 5-day *Magic Your Way* Base Ticket for $246 adult, $222 child (3-9 years).

New York Harry Potter: The Exhibition
Air + 3 Nights $519◊
Excelsior Hotel + taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES Manhattan accom during the August long weekend. Visit Harry Potter: The Exhibition in Times Square. Departs Jul 29/ggv/aa.

Honolulu & Maui Air + 7 Nights $879◊
Castle Kamaole Sands, Ohana Waikiki West + taxes & fees $137
INCLUDES air into Maui, return from Honolulu, inter-island flight, 4 nights Kihei condo-style accom & 3 nights Waikiki accom with kitchenette. Price per person based on a family of 4. Departs May 5/ggv/dl/ha.

Europe

Frankfurt Air + First 2 Nights
$309
Top Ambassador + taxes & fees $477
INCLUDES breakfast and your first 2 nights central accom close to dining, shopping & entertainment. Departs Jun 2/vat/ts.

Rome Air + First 2 Nights $507
H10 Roma Citta + taxes & fees $389
INCLUDES breakfast and your first 2 nights accom. Departs Jun 12/vat/ts.

London Royal Wedding
Air + 6 Nights $669
Ibis Earls Court + taxes & fees $513
INCLUDES central 3.5-star accom and breakfast during the week of the Royal Wedding. Departs Apr 26/vat/ts.

Iceland Air + 5 Nights 4-Star $1099
Holt + taxes & fees $364
INCLUDES Reykjavik accom. Departs Jun 9/ggv/fi.

Dublin & London
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star $1199
Gresham Hotel, Thistle Kensington Gardens + taxes & fees $502
INCLUDES all air, 3 nights central Dublin accom on O'Connell Street and 4 nights London accom close to Buckingham Palace. BONUS breakfast daily included. Departs May 9/ggv/ts/bd.

Canada & USA

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights
$335
Imperial Palace + taxes & fees $147
INCLUDES accom on the Las Vegas Strip. Departs Jun 19/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4-star Monte Carlo for $20 per night.

California Fly & Drive
Air + 7-Day Car $539
+ taxes & fees $126
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Vancouver Air + 4 Nights $589
Sandman Hotel City Centre + taxes & fees $313
INCLUDES accom in downtown Vancouver. Departs Jun 23/ggv/wg.

Washington DC
Air + 3 Nights 4-star $665
Washington Hilton + taxes & fees $122
INCLUDES central accom. Departs Jun 12/ggv/dl.

Key West Air + 4 Nights + Car $709
DoubleTree Grand Key Resort + taxes & fees $123
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ITICO

DIRTY LINEN

Soap on the ropes: Cartel fined

Procter & Gamble and Unilever were fined a total of $456 million US yesterday for fixing prices of powdered laundry detergent in eight EU countries. Germany's Henkel AG, another member of the cartel, escaped a fine because it blew the whistle on the others.

U.S.-based Procter & Gamble Co., British-Dutch company Unilever NV and Henkel AG are the leading producers of detergent in Europe. The cartel was started when the companies were in joint talks on how to cut down on packaging, the EU's competition commissioner said. They agreed not to reduce prices even though the packages were smaller. The cartel lasted from January 2002 until March 2005.

The detergent case is the third cartel case the commission decided to settle this year. A settlement leads to lower fines but cuts down on investigation costs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold contracts
+ 32.24 (13,833.64)	+ 0.08¢ (103.91¢ US)	+ 86¢ US ($107.11 US)	$4.077 US (– 2.1¢ US)	$1,455.60 US (+ $2 US)

Economy shifting to low gear: Carney

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Persons of interest: Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney, right, and senior deputy governor Tiff Macklem make their way to a news conference yesterday in Ottawa.

Expect loonie to stay high for next few years, central bank says

The Canadian economy is entering a period of slow growth under the heavy burden of a strong dollar, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney warns.

The dollar's impact on trade, particularly exports, is a key reason Carney expects the economy to slow sharply in the next two years after a 4.2 per cent growth spurt in the first quarter of this year. Other factors are a tapped-out consumer and government spending restraint.

The bank says the second quarter will see growth brake to two per cent, in part because of auto sector disruptions caused by the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

On an annual basis, the economy is forecast to slow to 2.6 per cent next year from 2.9 per cent this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rating game

- **Economists had been** pointing to May or July as the most likely dates for an interest rate hike from the current one per cent.
- **But the latest outlook** suggests the rate could remain low for much longer, especially since raising it too soon could have the undesired effect of lifting the loonie even higher.

Wind Mobile cuts Mississauga jobs

Wind Mobile, the wireless upstart launched with financial backing from an Egyptian billionaire, is cutting jobs at its Mississauga customer service operation and shifting about 20 positions to a call centre in Cairo.

The move comes as the company awaits a May 18 appearance before the Federal Court of Appeal, where it will argue that a decision overturning its right to operate in this country because it's not sufficiently Canadian-owned should be quashed.

Anthony Lacavera, chairman of Wind Mobile parent Globalive Communications Corp., acknowledged that Wind's move to cut about 42 service jobs in Mississauga and move work to Egypt and Peterborough could be "used by our detractors to bash us."

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Anthony Lacavera defends the transfer of Wind Mobile jobs to Cairo just as the company is preparing to fight charges it is not sufficiently Canadian-owned.

But he said the Mississauga downsizing and job transfers are focused on making the best of resources, adding that about 120 staff remain there.

He said the Mississauga centre will not be closed but could become home to head office staff, adding that cost savings from the transfer of jobs to Egypt are 20 per cent to 30 per cent per employee.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Up in the air

- **The federal Conservatives** allowed Globalive to launch despite a CRTC ruling that the company failed to meet Canadian ownership requirements. It is funded by Orascom, chaired by Egyptian billionaire Naguib Sawiris.
- **In February, the Federal** Court ruled the decision improper.

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Lawsuit asks for half of Facebook

Claimant says Zuckerberg lied to him about popularity of site, tried to get him to sell interest

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Mark Zuckerberg

A New York man who claims he struck a deal with Mark Zuckerberg in 2003 that entitles him to half of Facebook Inc. has included in a new court filing emails he said he exchanged with the Facebook founder.

In his federal court complaint, Paul Ceglia said the emails show, in part, how Zuckerberg tried to get him to abandon his interest in Facebook by souring their business relationship in 2004, while at the same time downplaying the popularity of the site following its launch at Harvard University, where Zuckerberg was a student.

Zuckerberg is accused in the complaint of breaching his contract with Ceglia by incorporating the website first known as thefacebook.com without telling him.

Ceglia seeks a 50 per cent share of the company, which has more than 500 million users worldwide. Forbes magazine last month estimated Zuckerberg's net worth at $13.5 billion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

National securities regulator is critical, feds tell court

A national securities regulator must be created because the smooth running of Canada's financial markets is critical to the overall economy, the federal government argued before the Supreme Court of Canada yesterday. Two days of hearings will consider the constitutionality of Ottawa's proposed creation of a national securities regulator. Several provinces are seeking to block the proposed change.

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G20

Canada is the only country in the G20 that does not have a national securities regulator.

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Broadcast views

Sun News Network launches Monday, but loses a prime-time anchor

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Look for Sun News to make all the right noises.

The upstart Sun News Network has lost one of its prime-time anchors days ahead of next week's launch.

Mercedes Stephenson was not suited for the venture and the split was mutual, Quebecor Media spokesman Serge Sasseville said yesterday in Quebec City. "We wish her well," he said.

The Sun columnist had been hired to co-host a political series called Daily Brief with David Akin, the Sun's national bureau chief in Ottawa who will continue as the sole host. Stephenson could not immediately be reached for comment.

Dubbed "Fox News North" by critics, Sun News Network debuts Monday with the slogan "hard news and straight talk." Its online promo promises a sharp edge and contrarian viewpoints, with on-air personalities including journalist Brian Lilley and Winnipeg talk-radio host Charles Adler.

However, the network is still haggling over attempts to get an airing across the country. This week, it announced its first major distribution deal with a cable or satellite television provider. The arrangement with Shaw Communications Inc. puts Sun News in two million homes in Western Canada and Ontario.

Sun News says it hopes to announce deals with other cable and satellite TV providers soon. In the meantime, the digital channel is being made available to Shaw Direct and Shaw Cable customers for a free six-month preview period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Media megalith

▶ **Quebecor Media oversees** a slew of other properties including canoe.ca, TVA, Sun Media, Videotron, Le Journal de Montreal and more than 200 community and trade publications.

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He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

CUE THE BEARDS, IT'S PLAYOFF TIME

Stock up on chicken wings, cut your phone lines and dump your girlfriend; it's time for the NHL playoffs or, as us Boston Bruins fans call it, the most exciting eight days of the year.

I love the playoffs and, like most relationships, the first two weeks are the best. Canada has hope and the post-season is welcomed as the first burst of spring. By the time the finals get underway, it's too hot for hockey, the Canuck clubs have melted away, and, often, a contender from the Deep South has you wondering how long it will be before the Quito Nordiques defeat the Bogota Maple Leafs in the Copa del Stanley.

But, oh, the next few weeks. The playoffs provide the comfort of a tradition with the excitement of unpredictable pandemonium. It's like going home for Christmas and finding a new family every year. And who wouldn't want that?

Because I am one of Canada's top-three most read columnists on this page, the country has been awaiting my Stanley Cup predictions. And here they are:

• One overtime game will go deep into the night — with dozens of saves, goalposts and close calls — ending only when you decide to take a "quick jaunt" to the bathroom.

• Something spectacular will happen whenever TV decides to have a pointless during-play interview with a parent (on Canadian TV) or second-rate celebrity (on U.S. TV). We didn't need to see that Ovechkin goal, NBC. An unshaven Vince Vaughn in a ball cap is awesome, too.

• Even if the final series is between Nashville and Tampa Bay and involves not a single Toronto connection, media will be abuzz with what it means for the Leafs. ("Lost in all the hubbub over the Stanley Cup championships, is that Mikhail Grabovski and the winning coach wear a similar brand of sock.")

• Don Cherry will applaud the military, laud Canada, and warn players not to showboat, dive, hit from behind, back down from a fight, or get your stick in the way of a shot. Rumour has it he may also wear something delightfully offbeat.

And those are my predictions. You don't even need to watch anymore.

And though I have mocked Don Cherry, you should still remember the words of a certain strangely dressed and plain-speaking Canadian icon when I say: Keep your stick on the ice.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

metro life panel

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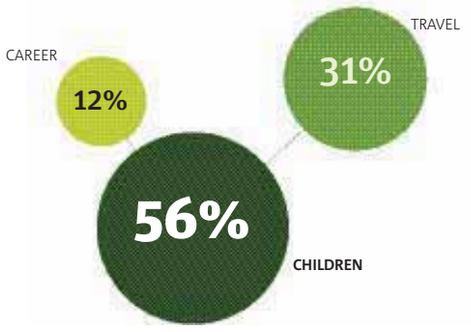
Which is more important?



Local tweets

▶ **@iams alexander:** Talk about a Decision: LeBron James, David Beckham and Charlie Sheen all in #Toronto at the same time! What are the groupies to do?

▶ **@mitchelsellers:** @delta thank you for two on-time flights today, it truly was a miracle. In other news, hello Toronto!

▶ **@madampocahontas:** I swear, I think Toronto harbours every psychotic girl ever made. The city's filled with them.

▶ **@cdnsoccerblog:** Anyone who has ever followed a Toronto sports team knows exactly who'll score for L.A. tonight. #TFC

▶ **@mikbechard:** Listening to Howard Schultz talk today in Toronto was incredibly inspiring! #starbucks

▶ **@cjmoorehead:** Rob Ford said he wanted to run Toronto like a business ... but he didn't say it would be Enron. #TOpoli

▶ **@el_javi71:** Wearing my #Habs hat in DT Toronto, #leafs fans staring at me w/envy! Kids wearing their Habs gear to school tomorrow for game day! Love it!

Worth mentioning

TORONTO. Alcohol helps the subconscious learn, a new study reveals. But what the back of your brain is learning is that alcohol addiction can make you feel good.

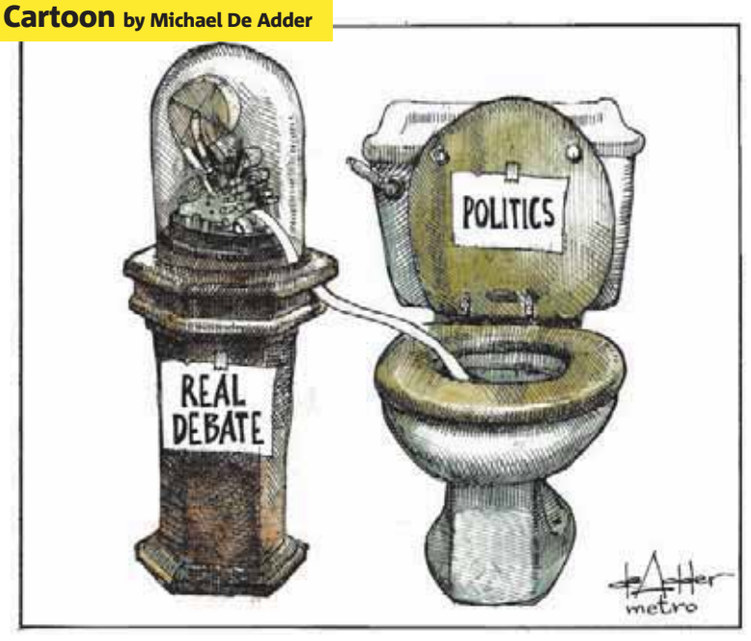
Neurobiologist Hitoshi Morikawa's findings contradict the idea that drinking wrecks your memory. It does, he said, for things like "your colleague's name or where you parked your car this morning."

But his work, published in The Journal of Neuroscience, also found "alcohol may actually increase our capacity to learn" at the subconscious level, helping to explain why alcoholics keep drinking when everything seems to tell them it's bad for them.

Scientists have long known that alcohol releases dopamine, the pleasure transmitter, in the brain. What is important in his new research, says Morikawa, is the finding that alcoholics aren't addicted to the pleasure or release drinking gives them. They're addicted to the subconscious memories of music, intense experience and sociability that alcohol has etched on a part of their brain.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cartoon by Michael De Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Something to sign his cheques with

Some say the pen is mightier than the sword. If true, Czech President Vaclav Klaus will soon be a very mighty man. More than 5,000 Czechs have signed up to a Facebook campaign to mail pens to the president after a video of him sheepishly pocketing a pen he took an obvious liking to during an official signing ceremony last week in Chile became widely popular on the Internet.

Klaus said it's customary for leaders to keep pens after signing accords. But the manner in which he sized up the pen — encrusted with semiprecious Chilean stones — and then sneakily slipped it into his pocket while he sat at a desk alongside Chilean President Sebastian Pinera has seen him ridiculed by some of his countrymen.

"It seemed to me absolutely inappropriate to do anything like that during an official ceremony," said Vojtech Palous, a 23-year-old student.

Campaign participants are being asked to send to the presidential office pens, pencils or other writing means on May 2 because "Mr. President obviously has nothing to write with." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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2 scene

▶ Tim Oakley builds one-of-a-kind store-front displays at Sonic Boom on Bloor Street.

Creating art in Sonic Boom's front window

Record store uses unique displays to lure music fans in the stores
Tim Oakley's DIY installations can cost around $500 each to create

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

Tim Oakley's hand is spotted with blood and his vintage X-Men T-shirt splattered with paint — not the usual collateral damage for your average record store employee. But Oakley isn't your average clerk. While his co-workers at Sonic Boom on Bloor Street stock shelves and help customers, Oakley has become the one-man brain trust behind the store's massive store-front displays.

"Before me record labels used to send us giant banners and we'd hang them," he explains. "I just decided one it day it might be fun to make something."

On this particular day Oakley is installing a phalanx of old vinyl records drilled onto plywood for this Saturday's Record Store Day. "Everything's super DIY," he says with a hint of pride noting that most display cost around $500 to create. "There's a lot of crazy tools in here that I've had to teach myself to use."

An eight-year veteran at the store, Oakley spends the majority of his shifts on his creations, generally starting with the text or a defined object from the cover, building the rest of the display around that. He rarely writes his ideas down; when he does, they never turn out the way he originally envisioned.

"They're all panics and disasters," he says. "I've never had one go in the way I wanted it."

Elements from some of his pieces can be found hanging in the store while others end up in a pile in his brightly-lit workshop in the store's basement, waiting to be taken to the dump.

Sometimes the store gets approached by record labels or local bands, but Oakley likes consulting his co-workers when choosing which cover to recreate. He admits though that he's easily swayed by certain visual elements.

"If it's got a weird creature on it, you bet your ass I'm gonna do it."

Record Store Day

Promotion. Record Store Day started in 2007 as a way of promoting independent record stores facing declining sales and closures. Now it's many store's busiest day of the year. Held on the third Saturday of April, many bands make unreleased or hard-to-find material available through limited run releases while retailers make room for in-store performances. "I enjoy seeing people lining up for releases," says John Maki, the man tasked with tracking down the dozens of limited edition releases for Sonic Boom.

Scene in brief

People magazine named Jennifer Lopez the World's Most Beautiful Woman. The singer, actress and American Idol judge tops the annual list of the World's Most Beautiful. Lopez is joined on this honour roll by such lovelies as Halle Berry, Jennifer Garner and Beyoncé Knowles.
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In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

HOLLYWOOD LOVES TAKING A TRIP TO RIO

▶ Michael Caine stared in the 1984 comedy Blame It On Rio, just one of several films to use Rio de Janeiro as its setting.

Tourists flock to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second largest city, to see the giant statue of Christ the Redeemer, dance the samba and cheer their favourite team at Maracanã Stadium, one of the world's largest football arenas.

The city has also provided the backdrop for many movies, including this weekend's animated feature Rio, the story of a domesticated macaw (voiced by The Social Network's Jesse Eisenberg) from small-town Minnesota who follows the bird of his dreams to the carnival city.

Rio has been a go-to location for filmmakers for years. To paraphrase '70s soft rockers Pablo Cruise, "Whoa oh ohh … When my baby's budget permits, We go to Rio. De Janeiro." In The Producers, the crooked wannabe embezzlers plan to fly to Rio once they have bilked Broadway out of a million bucks. The city served as the background to Mickey Rourke's erotic adventures in Wild Orchid and James Bond was famously attacked by the metal mandibled Jaws on a cable car at the top of Sugarloaf Mountain in Moonraker.

Although shot completely on location at Paramount Studios on Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles, Road to Rio, the fifth of the Bob Hope-Bing Crosby "road" pictures, makes good use of stock footage and set decoration to create a suitably exotic setting.

This time out the guys are vaudevillian stow aways on a Brazilian-bound ocean liner who rescue heiress Dorothy Lamour from an unwanted arranged marriage.

The movie is notable for the music (it contains the last on-screen singing performance by The Andrews Sisters) and Der Bingle's English lessons to the Portuguese street performers. To help them pass as American he teaches them the hipster phrase, "You're in the groove, Jackson."

A grittier look at the Brazilian city is offered in City of God (original title: Cidade de Deus), named after one of the city's most dangerous neighbourhoods. Following the stories of two boys — one who becomes a photographer, another who adopts a life of crime — it was shot on location in the violent favela or slum. Director Fernando Meirelles later said if he knew the dangers of filming the movie in the Rio favela in advance he wouldn't have made the movie.

Finally a sunnier look at Rio life comes in Blame It On Rio, a 1984 Michael Caine film Roger Ebert described as having "the mind of a 1940s bongo comedy and the heart of a porno film."

Movie brings Hicks' comedy back to life

PHIL BROWN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Controversial, brilliant, profane and prophetic. There are few stand-ups who made an impact on the comedy world like Bill Hicks. Yet, chances are you've never heard of him.

Hicks died in 1994 at 32 without ever achieving much fame in North America. However, his comedy was huge in the U.K., where more relaxed broadcast standards allowed him to reach a wider audience. So it's unsurprising that the remarkable new documentary American: The Bill Hicks Story, comes from British filmmakers Matt Harlock and Paul Thomas, who hope to bring long deserved attention to the influential comic.

Through hours of interviews with family and friends as well as a near limitless supply of performance footage and photographs, the filmmakers created a fittingly powerful tribute Hicks. The pair told Metro that audiences seem to welcome his comedy now more than ever.

"We're always asked questions like, 'How did I know about this guy?' or 'Why has no one else taken his place?'" said Thomas. "People like Bill are dearly needed."

Hicks' openly skeptical and satirical worldview feels more comfortable now in the era of The Daily Show.

"Even though he died 17 years ago, what Bill was saying was in some ways timeless," explained Harlock. "Not only is Bill's work still relevant today but it's even more so because we still haven't learned lessons from the problems he identified like the fact that you don't have to believe the things that you're told by your government, your church, or advertising.

"You can make up your own mind."

▶ American: The Bill Hicks Story, a documentary about comedian Bill Hicks, opens in theatres tomorrow.

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Bickering Braxtons

Whether the cameras are on or off, Toni and her sisters are real

If you think all the infighting the Braxtons do on their new series is for the benefit of the cameras, think again — it's definitely the real part of this reality show.

The sisters proved as much after the cameras stopped rolling on the first season and they promoted the new WEtv show, Braxton Family Values, with a visit to The Associated Press.

As the five sisters — Toni, Traci, Towanda, Trina and Tamar — sat tightly together in a TV studio, getting touch-ups on their hair and make-up, there was obvious tension.

Once the interview began, one-word or short answers were given.

Shortly afterward, their publicist knocked on the door.

"I just want to talk to them. Can we stop for a minute?" she asked.

As the women went into another room, arguing was heard. But when they returned minutes later, they were all cheery — ready to promote their new show.

When Toni re-answered why she decided to do the show, she said it was part of her "becoming 2011." She then checked in on her sisters for approval.

"How am I doing ladies?" she asked. In unison they replied: "You're doing good."

The mother of two boys — her youngest is autistic — opened her doors to the world in 2003 for the VH1 reality special, VH1 (Inside) Out: Toni Braxton — Family Comes First. Still, she says she was hesitant to let cameras back in her life on a larger scale.

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Braxton sisters, Toni, foreground center, and from left, Traci, Towanda, Trina and Tamar, of the WeTV reality series, Braxton Family Values, pose for a portrait in New York.

"I reneged a few times after I said, 'Yes, we can do the show,'" she said. "But over time my sisters said, '...You have to become current. ... (Fans) want to feel like they're sitting in your living room and it's important that you convey that to your fans.'"

Braxton Family Values airs Tuesdays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV watch list

Carell, Ferrell re-united on The Office

TV SHOW. The parade of high-profile guest stars visiting The Office continues tonight with Will Ferrell starting a four-episode story arc.

We already know Ferrell and Office star Steve Carell have great comic chemistry thanks to the 2006 film Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy, so here's hoping for lots of goofy interaction.

Ferrell plays the Scranton branch's new manager, Deangelo Vickers, and everyone is angling to make a good first impression.

▶ **The Office**
Global, NBC

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Real women of the mob

New show looks at what it's really like to live in a crime family

SUBMITTED

▶ From left, Mob Wives Renee Graziano, Karen Gravano, Drita D'avanzo and Carla Facciolo.

Meet four women with family problems.

• Renee Graziano's dad is Anthony Graziano, who is a high-ranking member of the mob, Feds say, and is currently serving time for racketeering. Her ex-husband has also had a scrape with the law on a gambling charge.

• Drita D'avanzo is the wife of Lee D'avanzo, the alleged leader of a Bonanno and Colombo crime family team who has been incarcerated for bank robbery — twice — spanning most of their married life.

• Carla Facciolo's father went to prison when she was a girl. Now her husband, a former broker, is behind bars for stock fraud. She tells her twin girls that daddy's away working.

• Most notable of all, Karen Gravano is the daughter of Sammy "The Bull" Gravano, the notorious mob turncoat who co-operated with the government to help take down John Gotti and the Gambino crime family. He, too, is currently in jail.

Not surprisingly, all four women have crossed paths through the years and, in certain cases, been lifelong pals. All are single mothers.

Now they're bonding at their Staten Island, N.Y., stomping ground for a new reality show, Mob Wives, a sort of Growing Up Gotti multiplied by four. It premiers this week on VH1 in the U.S. Keeping it all in the family, the show's creator and executive producer is Jennifer Graziano, Renee's sister.

"We are all similar women who come from a similar world and the same life situations," says Karen, who, for a future episode, was hosting a kaffeeklatsch recently in her living room that overlooks New York harbour. "I think our parents tried to keep us out of it, but it's the only world you know," she says, "and in Staten Island, everybody looks up to gangsters and street guys like they're celebrities in Hollywood."

But Karen has learned there's a downside to the underworld. That's part of her reason for being in "Mob Wives." She is also writing a book about Growing Up Gravano.

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Let the Olympic games begin

The satire on U.K. series 2012 may be too close to reality — especially for Olympic organizers

The broken clock had perfect timing.

Twenty Twelve, a satirical BBC sitcom about the London Olympics, kicked off last month with an episode that saw organizers unveil a baffling backwards-running clock counting down to the start of the Games.

Life soon imitated art.

A real clock installed in London's Trafalgar Square — hours before the show's launch — to tick down the 500 days to the opening ceremony stopped dead the very next day. It was several hours before engineers got it going again.

It was priceless free publicity for the BBC's Twenty Twelve, which has become must-watch television for those involved with organizing the Games — and anyone who has ever wondered whether London's creaky infrastructure can cope with an Olympic-sized challenge.

"It was delicious," the show's writer and director, John Morton, said of the timing. "Like so many things in broadcasting, it was a complete accident."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012

In the mock-documentary format pioneered by comedies like The Office, the show goes behind the scenes at the fictional Olympic Deliverance Commission, run by long-suffering "Head of Deliverance" Ian Fletcher (Hugh Bonneville, recently seen as aristocratic Lord Grantham in costume drama Downton Abbey).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/BBC

▶ The well-meaning team on 2012

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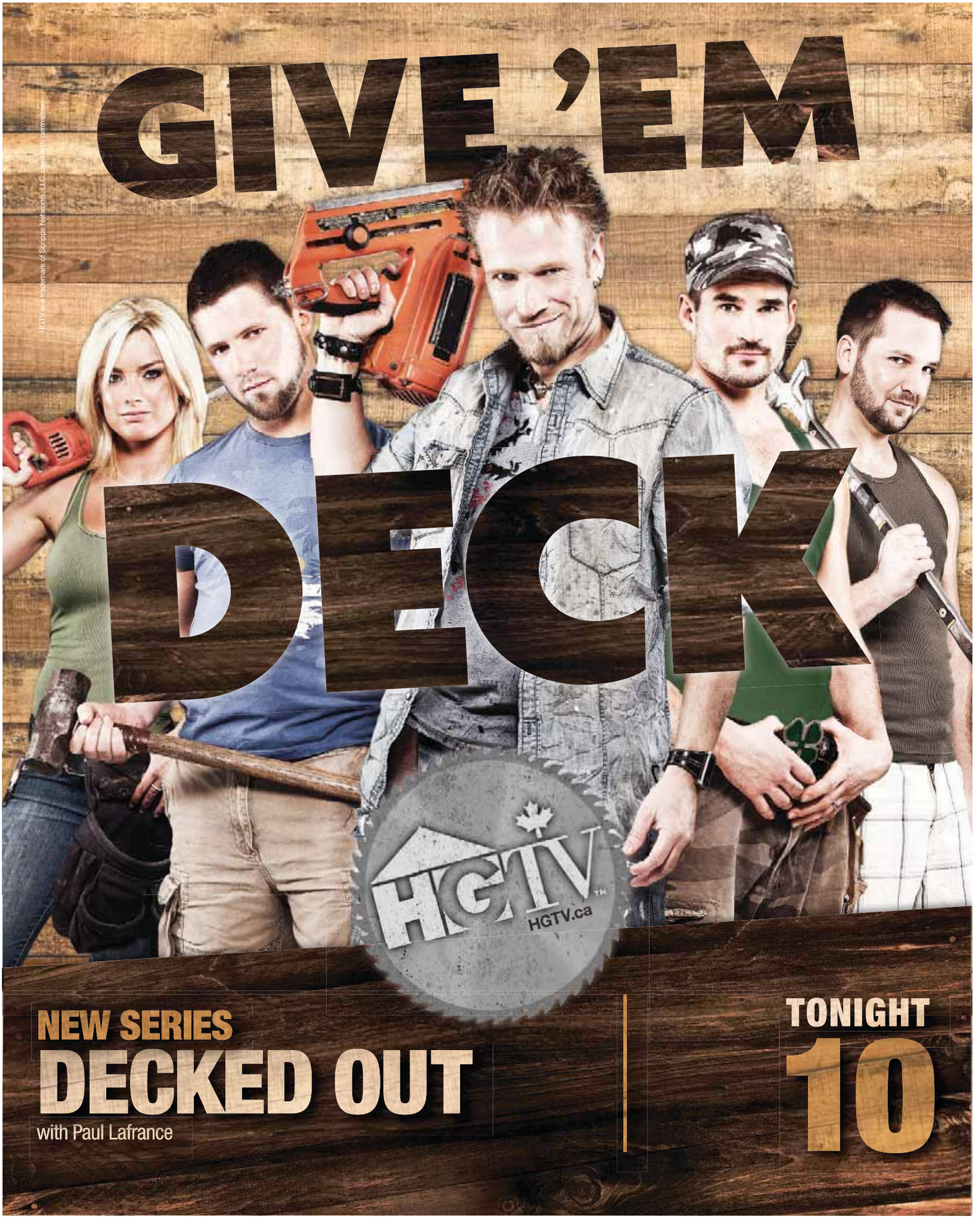

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MIRVISH PRODUCTIONS

▶ Jack Langedijk in Ghost Stories

Laugh-out-loud scary

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Heed the warnings: Ghost Story delivers with ghoulish glee

CYNTHIA MCQUEEN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Much like a ride at an amusement park, Ghost Stories comes with a warning. The latest installment at the Panasonic Theatre advises those with a nervous disposition to "think very seriously before attending." Again, like an amusement park or a good Man vs. Food episode, you get a souvenir on your way out: a button that reads, "I was brave enough."

This begs the question, is bravado necessary for seeing the production?

Without giving away too much, the show is rated for horror fans 14 and older. And from the reaction of one teenage girl, who buried her face in her mother's shoulder at more than one point in the show, this warning exists with good reason.

Even the most skeptical fans — the horror film aficionados — got their thrills and jolts from the scares that ensued. But, the best advice for this performance is to go with an open mind and a well-developed ability to suspend disbelief in the name of fun.

The first rule of Ghost Stories, much like the first rule of Fight Club, is don't talk about Ghost Stories. Before and after the show, you are reminded and encouraged to keep these ghost stories to yourself. This does negate the very organic nature of ghost story culture: as the lead actor mentions, ghost stories are like a good game of broken telephone. But the secrecy exists for good reason. If I told you even one plot detail about these stories, all shock value, twists, laughs and thrills would be lost.

"Ghosts that make your hair stand on end, and then make you laugh out loud..."

Like any good horror film, the sound track is key. From start to finish the sound effects play a large role in setting the mood of suspense. In fact, if you pay close attention to the very subtle sound cues throughout, the thread tying the show together becomes much clearer. However, unlike film, this terrifying adventure moves between humour and horror seamlessly based on the strength of the skilled actors, sparse sets and well-timed surprises and therefore didn't need a spooky sound track full of furiously played violins to carry it through.

Without relying on the special effects, make-up, close-up shots and quick editing horror film provides, this stage production pulls off one fine ghost story that would be hard to repeat. The simple sets and props, supported by an excellent team of stage hands, assisted in the execution of some chilling theatrical moments.

Held up by a tiny cast of four men — Darrin Baker, Jason Blicker, Jack Langedijk and David Reale — the tale is woven sans white-sheeted apparitions, but with a fair share of ghosts that still make your hair stand on end and then make you laugh out loud. Co-writers and directors Andy Nyman and Jeremy Dyson should be proud of the Canadian staging of their London production.

Though I can't tell you much, if it's goose bumps, giggles and ghoulishly delivered gasps you seek, get a ticket and you shall receive.

Bieber frustrated by Israeli media

Aggressive papparazzi and politics plaguing his visit to the holy land

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber's trip to Israel is off to a rocky start — tentative plans to meet the prime minister have fallen through under contentious circumstances, and the teen heartthrob says he has holed himself up in his hotel to escape the country's notoriously aggressive paparazzi.

Bieber, adored by young fans worldwide for hits like Baby, arrived in Israel on Monday and was planning to spend the week sightseeing ahead of an outdoor concert in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

The 17-year-old artist has set off a wave of excitement, with young females camped outside his hotel and photographers aggressively following him at every stop.

Even Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears to have been caught up in the hype. Officials in his office said the Israeli leader had hoped to meet the singer, but hinted that politics had scuttled the visit.

A spokesman for Netanyahu said the prime minister thought it would be a good idea.

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Talking points

Brand wants to have his own kids

PEOPLE While Katy Perry might not be quite ready for kids, Russell Brand is more than eager, according to Hollyscoop.

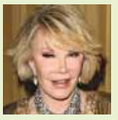
"I love children. I am very much looking forward to becoming a dad. Who knows when? Soon I hope," he says, adding that having his own might help mature him. "I go nuts with children. Especially when I don't have any. So when I'm around my friends' children, I jazz them kids up, I swear at them, I get them all worked up, I say crazy stuff to them. I fill their heads with nonsense and then leave them."

But they do start a family, it means heading back to England.

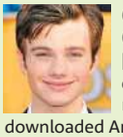
"I have a fear of hearing my American children speak to me in American accents."

METRO

Celebrity tweets



Joan Rivers [@Joan_Rivers] Just arrived in the U.K. People here are taking "The King's Speech" Oscar win very seriously! Everyone in London now has a stutter.



Chris Colfer [@chriscolfer] I finally downloaded Angry Birds. I haven't slept in four days...

METRO

Cowell nears billionaire status

PEOPLE It's no surprise that Simon Cowell brings in a decent salary — if $208,000 a day is considered decent. In just a nine-month span in 2009, Cowell earned $52.8 million thanks to American Idol, America's Got Talent and the X Factor, among other ventures, according to Hollyscoop. And within the next six years, Cowell could even hit billionaire status, since he now owns all of his musical and television assets, including the U.K. and U.S. versions of the X Factor.

METRO

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRONTIER COLLEGE

Volunteer tutors are valued at Frontier College, a national volunteer-based literacy organization

VOLUNTEERING BENEFITS NOT JUST THOSE ON THE RECEIVING END BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE DONATING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY

Toronto's Nelisha Dumont and Phyllis Miller can attest to the fact that volunteering has a positive impact on everyone involved. Last November, when Dumont started working with Miller, who has been a volunteer literacy tutor at Frontier College since 2007, she was shy and having trouble reading and writing.

The two and a half hours the 21-year-old Toronto resident has been spending with Miller on Thursday mornings, when they work on vocabulary, grammar, reading and writing, has made a big difference in both her skills and her outlook.

Today Dumont especially enjoys writing stories about herself and her family. When she's ready, she plans to get her GED—and she has Miller to thank for helping her achieve her goals. "Phyllis is very helpful, and I learn something new from her every time we meet," says Dumont. "I was kind of shy when we started, and now I'm more confident. I really appreciate what Phyllis is teaching me."

Miller is a retired civil servant who spends about 10 hours a week helping Frontier College students improve their literacy skills. As a manager during her career, she regularly reviewed her staff's reports and letters to check them for accuracy. She has always been interested in literacy, and when she retired she looked for a volunteer outlet that would use her skills and experience in that area.

Miller is happy to be able to pass on her knowledge to the students at Frontier College, which is a 25-minute walk from her home. "I really enjoy seeing the lights go on when they 'get it' and become ready to move on without me," says Miller. "Plus, the staff are tremendously supportive and encouraging."

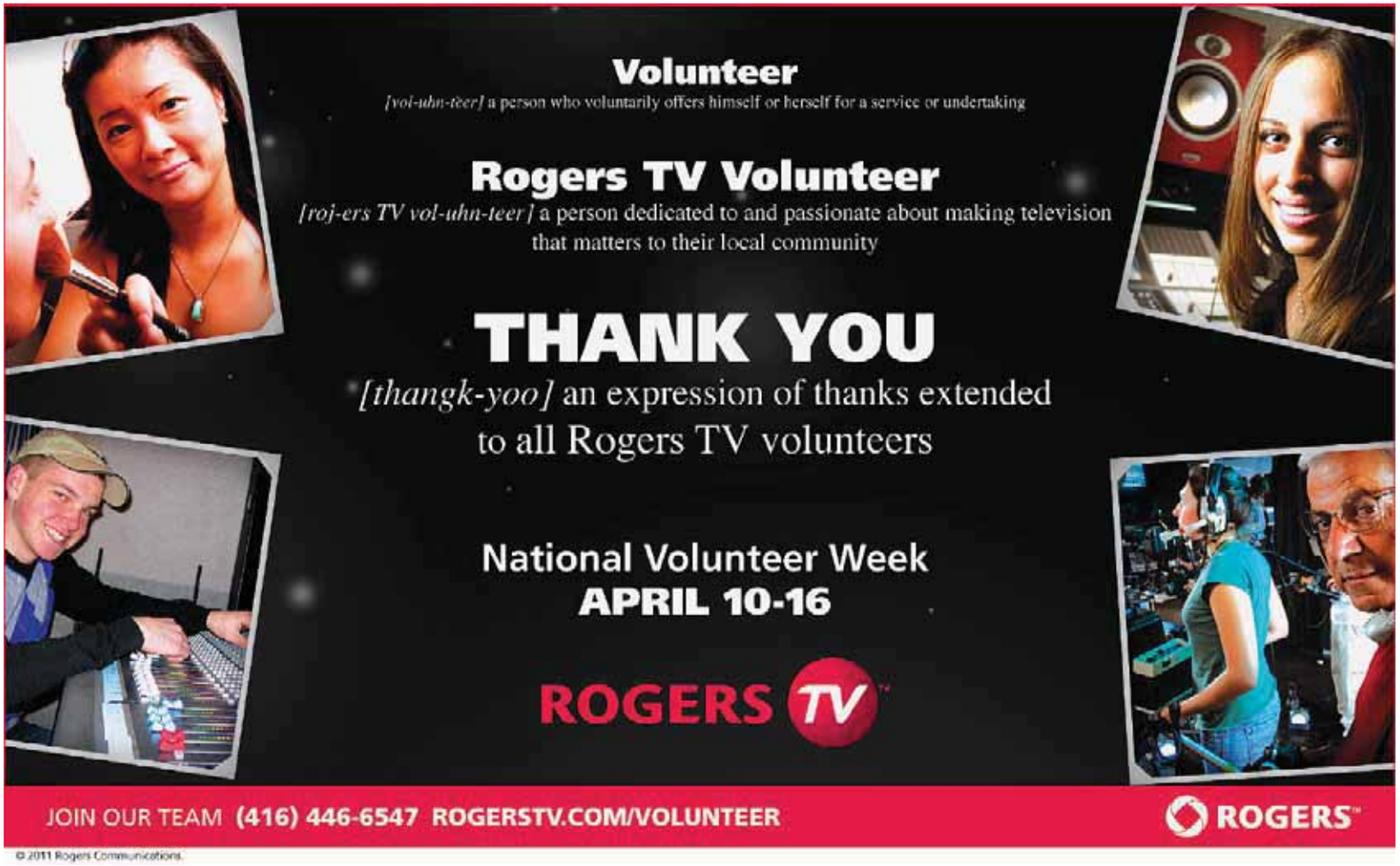
To learn more about how to become a volunteer, visit www.volunteer.ca or call 1-800-670-0401.

by Jane Doucet

BY THE NUMBERS

Toronto's Phyllis Miller is one of 12.5 million Canadians who volunteer for charitable and not-for-profit organizations. Here are a few other interesting statistics about volunteering:

- **2.1 billion:** the number of hours Canadian volunteers donate annually, which is equivalent to about 1.1 million full-time jobs.
- **161,000:** the approximate number of charitable and not-for-profit organizations in Canada.
- **200:** the number of Volunteer Centres in Canada.
- **7%:** this single group of the population contributes nearly 80% of the total volunteer hours tallied.
- **73%:** the percentage of businesses that either support or accommodate volunteering.


Volunteer
[vol-uhn-teer] a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking
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Maxi skirts for every budget

- Skirts are dramatically long and easy breezy for spring
- Perfect to kick your legs up in

3 life

After years of gut-sucking cigarette jeans and trousers, the maxi skirt phenomenon that has taken over spring feels like a liberating revolution. You can look chic and stunning without worrying about how many carbs you ate the day before. It's a win-win. KENYA HUNT

Trend of the week

1

1 ROBERTO CAVALLI
pleated maxi
$1,980, **netaporter.com**

2

2 DELIA'S
tie-dye skirt
$45, **delias.com**

3

3 ANTHROPOLOGIE
striped skirt
$160, **anthropologie.com**

4

4 ZARA
printed skirt, $65,
zara.com

5

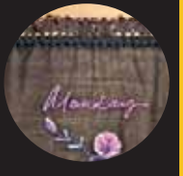
5 FREE PEOPLE
$148, **freepeople.com**

6

6 SUNO
pleated skirt, $800,
shopbop.com

Style pick

Days of the week underwear
With the music video disaster Friday becoming a bona fide YouTube hit, it's become clear that some people may not know that Sunday comes after Saturday. Never forget which day it is again with Stella McCartney's Knickers of the Week.



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*Excluding Haggar A/R styles: 1182, 1512 and Essential Pant SPC092

Best friends setting trends

The yin and yang fashion aesthetic of Lemonade Mouth's young starlets is about to get tweens talking

BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hailey Kiyoko, left and Naomi Scott star in Lemonade Mouth.

Hayley Kiyoko and Naomi Scott are the next generation of Disney Channel starlets, and these BFFs are getting a crash course in signing autographs, security guards and singing on live TV.

They've hit the media circuit this week and have a premiere to attend before Friday's debut of the TV movie Lemonade Mouth, about kids forming a band. But if this whole experience has been "just weird, just crazy" – Scott's words – dressing the part hasn't been.

Kiyoko, 20, seems poised to become a fashion force, gravitating toward funky styles, wearing a leather cowboy shirt and shorts with tights. She even pulls off the leather fanny pack that she feels fairly passionate about. ("I love the fanny pack because I hate bringing those Mary Poppins big bags everywhere," she says. "I can wear this and keep my stuff safe and I can always reach my phone and lip gloss.")

Her taste is "left of centre," and while she enjoys very much the self-expression that comes with fashion, the shopping part is mediocre, she says. The maximum time limit at the mall for this Los Angeles-area native is 90 minutes.

Scott would rather be shopping for candy and other sweets, although she likes the occasional spin through a Zara or an All-Saints shop. "Fashion" isn't really her thing, she says, although she's quickly realizing that paying attention to her clothes, and her beauty and grooming routines are all part of her job.

Looking good exudes a confidence that she hopes her new tween fans will learn, she says, but she wants the emphasis to be on a good, healthy outlook, not on perfection.

Scott has the unfussy, effortless look that so many strive for. As a Londoner, the 17-year-old says she has well-developed preferences for darker colours and subtle shapes, but she doesn't mind something quirky, either. On this day, she's wearing a grey-print, tank-strap tunic top and chunky flat boots – and an oversized pink alligator pendant.

Even though Kiyoko is more daring in her style choices, Scott says she likes that her friend always root things in purpose rather than trend.

Back to the fanny pack: "What makes it cooler about Hayley wearing it is that she's choosing it because it's practical. She doesn't want to look like she's trying," Scott says.

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A critter on your clothes

What animals are 'in' this season you ask? Shapely creatures do best

Not all critters are created equal: Dogs and waterfowl are popular, but cats barely make it onto the radar — at least when it comes to creatures featured on the preppy clothes and accessories that seem synonymous with spring.

You also can't go wrong with a whale or crab; girls love their ponies and butterflies; and boys have a thing for sharks.

This is the season animal friends come out of hibernation and land on belts, bags, polos, chinos, bathing suits, flip-flops and anything else in your closet where an embroidered turtle or fish can be placed.

Other motifs work, too, especially easily shrunken flags, sailboats and palm trees, according to Shep and Ian Murray, the brothers who founded the Vineyard Vines brand that even makes fishbone-decorated collars for dogs.

The best critter candidates are things that have a defined silhouette, explains Jim Hauptman, director of design for L.L. Bean.

A sea horse, for example, isn't an animal with a huge passionate following, but it does really well as an embroidery because it's instantly recognizable from its shape and it can be done in many colour combinations. Whales work for the same reason — there's really no expectation of realism.

Brown and black bears, however, which would seem natural for an outdoorsy brand, are tough because the embroidery can only get down to a certain level of detail. "Bears end up looking like blobs," Hauptman said. A panda is the exception to the bear rule because of its definitive colouring, he adds.

Colour can't be underestimated, said Shep Murray. Brights draw in critter fans, while traditional colours, such as navy, khaki and white, suit those less adventurous.

"We find if we put a fish — on khaki shorts with the simple outline of a navy fish — most guys will wear it. You can get those people a little less likely to wear a critter to wear it if you don't colour it so brightly," he said, "but the guy who is a 'total prep' wants it pink and green."

Afonso Sugiyama, president of Havaianas, a shoe brand best known for its themed flip-flops, has a theory that shoppers start with more basic colours, then go for bold ones, then ease themselves into mixing patterns with really wild hues.

"It's the search for something to express your feelings," he said.

With flip-flops, in particular, you can go for the fruit pattern or peacock-feather print while keeping it mostly hidden because the foot will cover the bulk of it. But, Sugiyama said, it's the woman or girl who wears those that will eventually graduate to embellished straps or seek out glow-in-the-dark designs.

Most customers want a tropical motif as the season shifts to summer, he said, but nature-inspired and exotic patterns like tribal prints are consistently popular as well.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

L.L. BEAN TURTLE BEACH TOWEL

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ponyride.ca

KARL-EDWIN GUERRE

Get this guy's style

This chap's style hinges on his expert layering and off-kilter touches like the geek-chic spectacles and roughly tied trench. We round up the building blocks of his look.

1

2

3

8 9

4

5 6

7

1 UNIQLO OXFORD SHIRT
$32, uniqlo.com

2 BANANA REPUBLIC TRENCH
$284
bananarepublic.gap.com

3 SAINT JAMES CANCALE II SWEATER
$132, oipolloi.com

4 DOCKERS CHINOS
$124,
my-wardrobe.com

5 JOHN LOBB MONK SHOE
$1,063, mrporter.com

6 POLO RALPH LAUREN MADRAS BOW TIE
$70, ralphlauren.com

7 LEVIS JACKET
$161, asos.com

8 CUTLER & GROSS GLASSES
$460,
www.cutlerandgross.com

9 RENEWAL LEATHER SATCHEL
$52, urbanoutfitters.com

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Kate's perfect pair?

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARUNA SETH

Kate Middleton is allegedly planning on wearing ballet flats on her wedding day. In fact, rumour has it Kate may wear four or five different pairs of shoes throughout the celebration. We probably won't know many details until April 29th, but London designer Aruna Seth received an official letter from Buckingham Palace informing her that her designs were being considered. Any bride — princess or not — would be overjoyed to walk down the aisle in these bejewelled nude patent leather flats. Powder, a bridal boutique in Woodbridge, Ontario, is the exclusive Canadian retailer for Aruna Seth shoes.

NICOLE KEEN/ WEDDINGBELLS.CA

Model-ready your hair

THE KIT

The Kit models are busy women, and have a lot to say when it comes to keeping their hair in top shape. Here are some of their tips:

- Air-dry your hair as much as possible before blow-drying to limit the amount of heat you're blasting at it.
- Always use styling products that help hair stand up to the rigours of the curling or flat iron.
- Choose the best products for your particular hair, whether it's thin hair that could use some volumizing, or colour-treated hair that requires the right conditioner.
- Hair masks help hydrate and condition hair. Schedule a date with yourself once a week for a mask.

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Beauty picks

POUTS THAT POP

What we want for spring is a colour that's not as fussy as red and not as cute as pink — something like, oh, orange. Tangerine lips are a bold look to embrace this season and getting it right is essential. You don't want to look like you've been sipping on Sunny Delight all day. Choose the tone to suit your mood and skin tone. If you've got pale skin, try soft, peachy tones such as Chanel Hydrabase in Sari Doré. Darker skin tones look best with brighter, punchier hues like MAC's Mornage. These tones provide great contrast on darker skin. ROMINA MCGUINNESS

CHANEL HYDRABASE SARI DORÉ
$35
chanel.com

MAC MORNAGE
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maccosmetics.com

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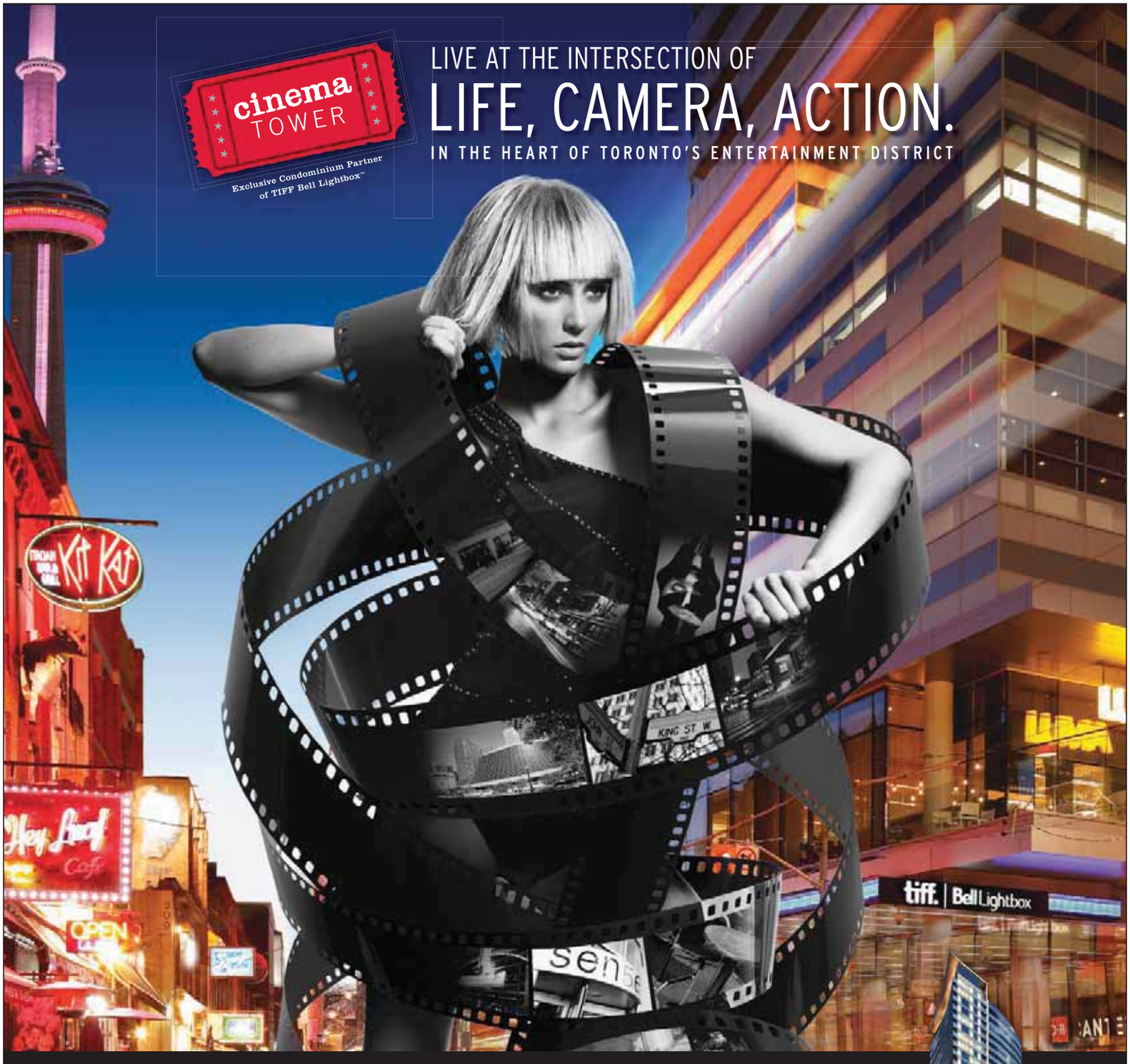
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As Downtown as it can get

The project overview

Urban living with a neighbourhood lifestyle on a historic street with a sense of community, Downtown is a mid-rise with 11 storeys and 89 units, surrounded by parks and trees. With occupancy in early 2013, the building will feature a well-appointed lobby with concierge desk, 9-foot ceilings and expansive floor to ceiling windows.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

In the neighbourhood

Residents can walk to anything at any time: restaurants, cafés, parks, pubs, galleries and shops. The broad expanse of Wellington West creates an exquisite front yard for the small population of people that call this home. The name says it all: it doesn't get any more downtown than this.

Building amenities

The building features a sleek party room with cocktail bar and dining area with flat screen TV. The party room connects to a landscaped terrace that hosts gas barbecues and a dining area with retractable canopy. There's a dedicated theatre room with audio/visual equipment, parking and storage lockers and condo fees are 0.49 per sq. ft.

Location and transit

A central King West location on historic Wellington Street, the building overlooks Victoria Memorial Park. Located just steps from the downtown core and just a short jaunt to the Gardiner Expressway. Close to TTC: a block from the King West and Spadina streetcars and a short walk to Union Station.

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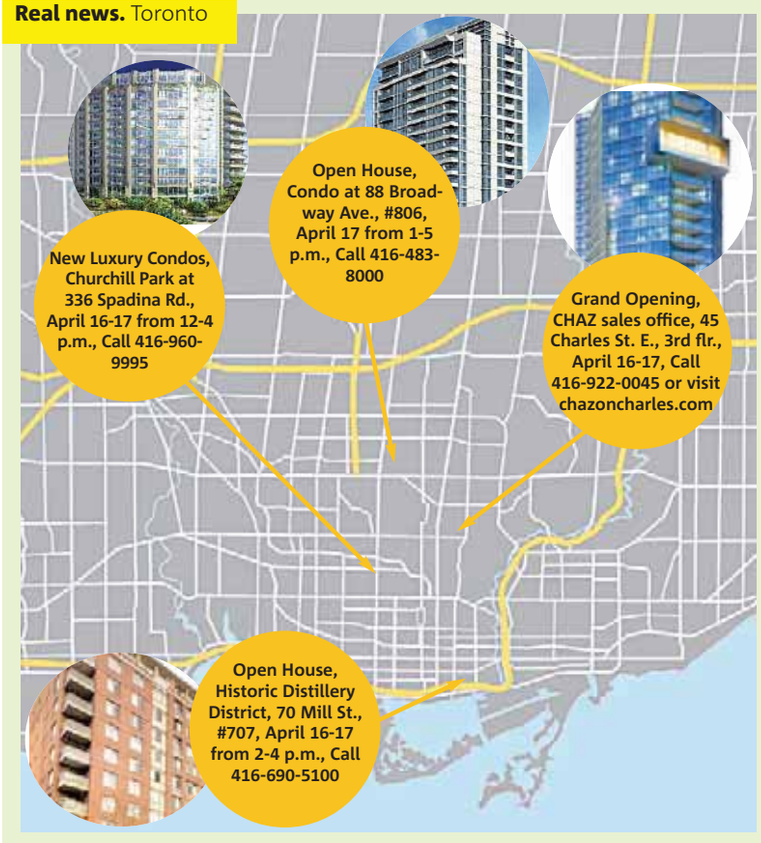
- **PHONE:** 416-598-5088
- **SIZES:** 424 to 1,700 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** From $249,900 to just over $1 million

▶ Downtown Condominium Residences is expected to have occupancy in early 2013.

Real news. Toronto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Open House, Condo at 88 Broadway Ave., #806, April 17 from 1-5 p.m., Call 416-483-8000
Grand Opening, CHAZ sales office, 45 Charles St. E., 3rd flr., April 16-17, Call 416-922-0045 or visit chazoncharles.com
Open House, Historic Distillery District, 70 Mill St., #707, April 16-17 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-690-5100

THREE STARTLING STATISTICS FROM THE NUMBERS GURU

Rooftop Surfing

STEPHEN DUPUIS
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

I went to a BILD-hosted seminar to learn about low-rise land supply (actually the lack thereof) but I came away with three absolutely startling statistics gleaned from the GTA residential development market perspective presented by George Carras, President of RealNet Canada Inc. and the numbers guru for the entire industry.

It was Carras who revealed last year that Toronto's high-rise housing market was the largest in North America, by far. That hasn't changed, but last year we were second in total housing starts to Houston, Texas. This year, we're officially the most active housing market in North America, running about 5,000 units higher than Houston.

The second startling stat revealed by Mr. Carras is that six of the top 10 housing markets in North America last year were Canadian markets, with Montreal in third place, Vancouver in fourth, Edmonton in seventh, Calgary in ninth and Ottawa-Gatineau rounding out the top 10.

Sandwiched into this group were Houston, Dallas, Washington and New York.

Obviously our GTA and Canadian success story is partly due to the moribund state of housing in the U.S., and this is where Carras' third, and perhaps most startling stat enters the story.

The statistic is 21 per cent. When you divide the number of new homes and condos sold in the GTA in February of this year (3,602 units) into the number of new homes and condos sold in the entire United States (approximately 17,000 units), our market would be 21 per cent of total U.S. housing sales. The fact that we are the most active housing market is great, but the statistics to celebrate are all the jobs and investment that go with being number one.

Outdoor decor: What's in

- Whether you need something for your flower bed, patio furniture or you just want something brand new
- Metro's got some great kitschy, trendy and classic suggestions to suit every taste for the outdoors

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Soon, yes, very soon, we will be looking toward the outside of the house to expand our living and entertaining space.

This year's outdoor trends are all about adding colour and fun to the balcony, deck or backyard.

Here's a roundup of fun, affordable items to help brighten up the outside — without breaking the bank.

Yes, the tacky gnome is back! Add some whimsy to your back yard with this famous outdoor fellow, Elfric Gnome, Statue, Home Depot.

Relax into these pillows that look too stylish to be left outside! Ventura Bloom Pillow, Crate and Barrel.

Add some bedazzle to the back deck this summer with Solar Stone's LED Dragonfly stone. Home Hardware stores.

Get the party started with colourful shot glasses and tray from Stokes.

Pier One's Outdoor Garden Stools become an extra perch or side table while adding great colour and style to the great outdoors.

Ergonomically correct, stackable and super-fun colours make the Adirondack Chair from Home Hardware a big winner this summer.

Home Hardware's Tangerine Resin Side Table is always on call when grabbing a bite or putting down a drink when entertaining.

Scrolled garden gate-inspired outdoor rugs help to cover worn decking and offer comfort under foot. Outdoor rugs are often overlooked for use inside the home, and can be a perfect solution. Scroll Rug, Pier One.

This spring, fire up a Bodum Fyrka Grill portable BBQ that is chic and convenient in splashy colours like tangerine.

The metal Drink Butler from Home Depot is always on duty to keep your ice and party punch ready to be served. The butler can also be used as an herb planter and side table. Talk about versatile domestic help!

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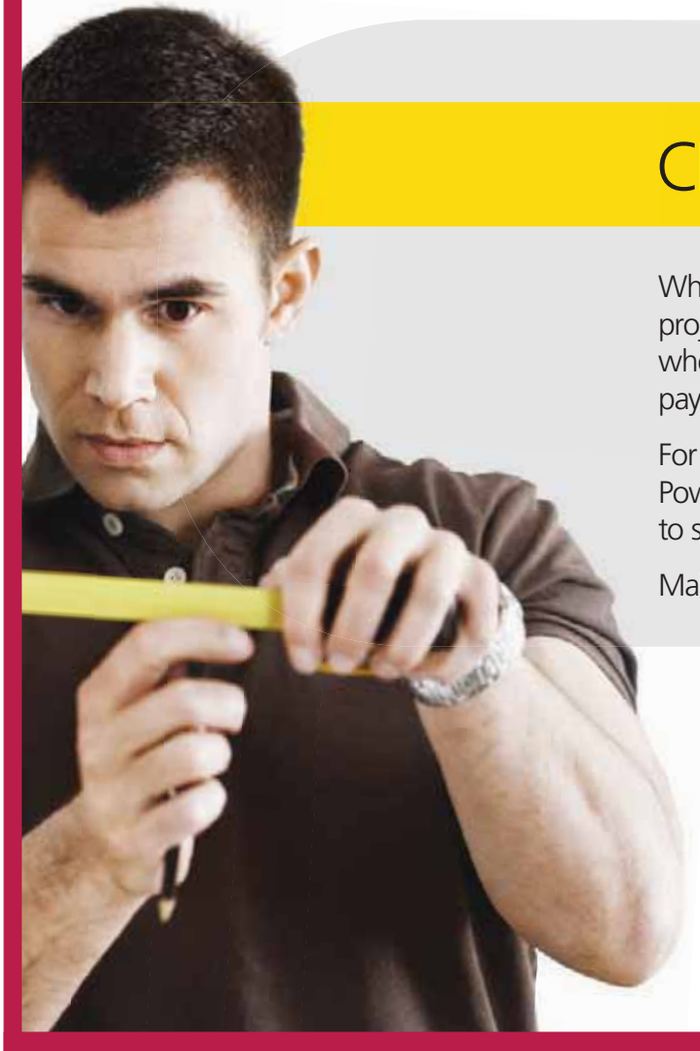

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Bunny rabbits aren't just for Easter time

At its most charming, rabbit imagery is sweet and whimsical Just don't overuse it The key is to find pieces that will work year-round

AP PHOTO/POTTERY BARN KIDS

▶ Beatrix Potter Peter Rabbit tumblers from Pottery Barn Kids.

In Asian culture, 2011 is the Year of the Rabbit. You wouldn't know it given current events, but traditionally, years hallmarked by the animal are quiet and serene.

You'll see lots of items commemorating the year in Asian markets. In Western culture, the bunny has found a home in the Easter basket, but it's also a token of spring's arrival — of renewal, and of nature at her most benevolent.

Decorator and design blogger Lindsay Ballard of Austin, Tex., is a big fan of bunnies. "They evoke a happy feeling, regardless of the time of year," she says. Just don't overuse the motif — letting them multiply, so to speak, can look overdone.

364414

"I'll use a rabbit in a tabletop vignette along with found objects and other vintage elements," she says.

Ballard hits the after-Easter sales for new finds. "The key is to find pieces that will work year-round. You don't want to use a rabbit carrying a pink and blue Easter egg in your everyday decor."

She suggests hunting for neutral-coloured examples, and spray painting if necessary.

At its most charming, rabbit imagery is sweet and whimsical. But it can also look sophisticated and modern, and that versatility makes it a great trend to hop on if you're looking for a few fresh spring updates.

Find white ceramic rabbits at Pottery Barn to use as display pieces or clever serveware, such as candy dishes and snack trays. There's also a folk-arty metal running rabbit mounted on a wood block. Carved wooden rabbits are popping up at several retailers, too.

Uttermost's Leverette rabbit lamp, designed by Carolyn Kinder, adds French Country flavour to the motif. Thomas Paul's new bunny graphic, in lilac, rose or aqua, graces smart linen pillows and alpaca throws.

If you're interested in more of a commitment, New York studio Grow House Grow offers the pretty Cottontail wallpaper. Designer Katie Deedy remembered a childhood road trip through south Georgia when she decided that fluffy-tailed bunnies must have sprung from the fields of white cotton. Her charming paper, offered in Powder, Sweet Pea and Tapioca colours, depicts bunnies popping out of the cotton sprigs.

▶ Fauna rabbit pillow by Ross Menuez.

AP PHOTO/FAWN & FOREST

For a spring tea party, consider Williams Sonoma's wee, coloured-glass bunny taper holders, and Lenox's Butterfly Meadow bunny creamer and sugar bowl, both in dishwasher-safe porcelain.

At Pottery Barn Kids, you'll find tumblers printed with Beatrix Potter's famous rabbits. While part of the retailer's Easter collection, the glassware would be fun to use all year.

At Fawn & Forest, find Decoylab designer Maiko Kuzuniski's playfully romping laser-cut rabbit bamboo wall clock, and Ross Menuez's rabbit pillow for Fauna. The online store also carries several evocative works by Portland-based photographer Elizabeth Soule.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP PHOTO/DESIGN PUBLIC

▶ Cottontail wallpaper in Sweet Pea by Grow House Grow designer Katie Deedy.

SPLITTING LOTS CAN BE A TRICKY BUSINESS

Legal Matters

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Q: Last year my partner and I purchased a wooded property of about two acres with two lots contained in the parcel of land. At the time we jointly purchased the land and plan to separate the lots into individual ownership (this is mainly in case something were to happen to one of us and then that person would have to deal with the family and possibly beneficiaries of the person who was no longer able to deal with the land). We want to get this sorted out sooner rather than later. What are our first steps?

A: You may already have a bit of a problem on your hands depending on how your property is registered.

It all has to do with the Planning Act of Ontario and whether the two lots merged into one lot when they were purchased.

Not to get too technical at the end of the week, but if the property is governed by a registered plan of subdivision and they are whole lots, then the ownership of the two whole lots does not merge.

However, if there is no subdivision plan, which may very well be the case for a remote wooded acreage, you may find that the two lots cannot be individually owned unless you approach the municipality for a severance.

Your simple question is a much more complex issue that you should have a seasoned real estate lawyer examine.

Good luck.

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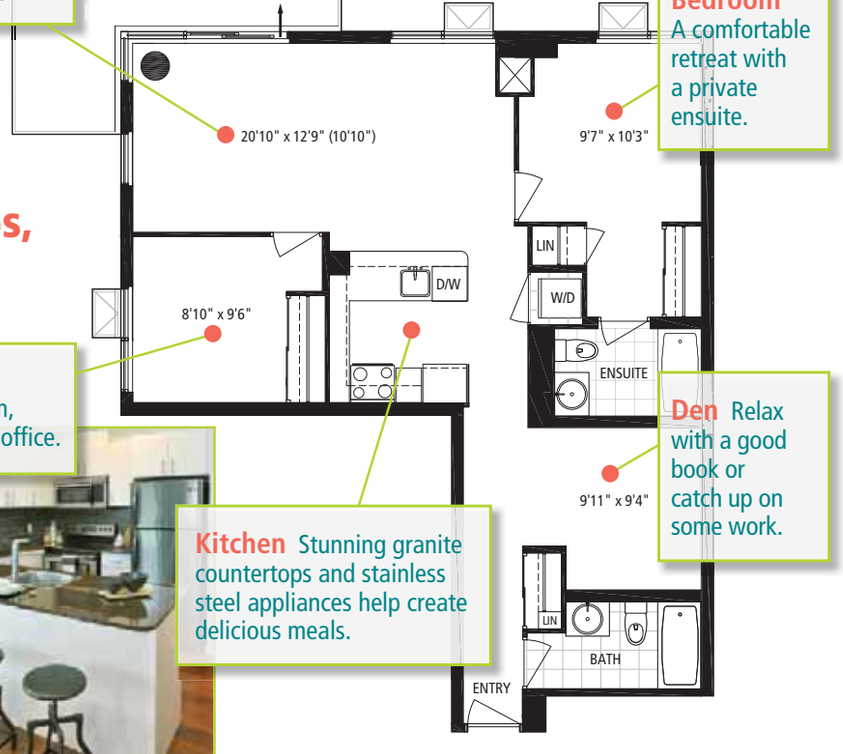

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Get ready for home renos

Come spring, winter-weary Canadians tend to focus their thoughts on outdoor projects in anticipation of those hot days of summer Here are four popular home renovation projects

KELLY PUTTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK

1

All decked out

Decking is the No. 1 home renovation project of choice, says Liz Martin, a project guide with Rona, which offers customers free in-store deck designs, from basic to sophisticated, in an assortment of materials.

"Spring is about extending your living space," says Martin. "You're opening your doors and making the outside inviting."

A basic pressure-treated 10-by-10-foot deck will cost around $1,000 for the do-it-yourselfer; a 20-by-20-foot deck would run $2,800.

A decking material homeowners should consider, says Martin, is interlocking stone, which is maintenance free, has a longer lifespan than wood and generally offers more privacy as stone platforms are typically built lower to the ground.

ISTOCK

2

Curb appeal

Now's also the time to think curb appeal. Consider an asphalt driveway to neaten up your existing gravel or dirt driveway.

The beauty of asphalt is that it's far more flexible than concrete so it's less likely to crack. It's also cheaper than concrete and sets faster.

Asphalt driveways are not likely a do-it-yourself job. Be careful when looking for a paving contractor, as the profession doesn't have the best reputation. Try looking for contractors at handycanadian.com, a website that helps consumers connect with reputable contractors.

The cost of a new asphalt drive will cost from about $2 to $3.50 per square foot, says Kevin Guidolin of Upper Canada Asphalt.

ISTOCK

3

Landscape to perfection

Major landscaping is not a job for the faint of heart. Not only do you need time and patience, but if you're doing it all at once, it can be costly.

There are ways to break up the expense. A step-by-step approach, whether professionally installed or planted by hand, helps spread out the cost, according to Home Depot.

Before planting anything, you'll need to install your drainage and consider irrigation.

Map out your paths and patios. Think about vertical focal points such as trees, gazebos or pergolas.

With these in place, you're ready to fill in your landscape canvas with beds, shrubs and other plant materials over time.

ISTOCK

4

About the garage

Extending your indoor living space into the garage is a good idea if you're short on funds or can't stomach the disruption of a major addition.

The first thing you need to do is check with your local building inspector to ensure the coast is clear for the conversion.

Many garages already have existing plumbing and electricity in place so that's not as expensive as installing from scratch.

This is probably the most cost-effective means to add a few hundred square feet to your living space.

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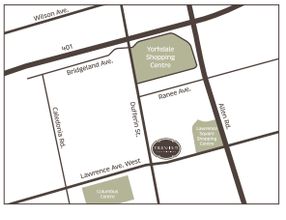

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The fine art of pruning

Clematis is one of the earliest vines to green up in the spring But there's confusion about whether this woody plant should be pruned

There's a lot to like about clematis, one of the earliest vines to green up in the spring. It's easy to grow, blooms in profusion and is hardy, with some varieties lasting more than 50 years.

Yet there remains a great deal of confusion about when — or even if — these plants should be pruned.

"If you have vines that grow 20 feet a year, they likely will be blooming in your neighbour's yard and not your own," said Linda Beutler, curator of the Rogerson Clematis Collection at West Lynn, Ore., and author of Gardening with Clematis. "The reason for pruning is to keep them under control."

The tops get bulky and the bottoms appear bare if you don't prune clematis plants every two or three years, Beutler said.

There are more than 250 clematis species and even more hybrids.

People new to gardening often are intimidated by pruning, but the clematis groupings are pretty straightforward, said Sandy Feather, a commercial horticulture specialist with Penn State Cooperative Extension in Pittsburgh.

"If you know which cultivar you have, (then) a lot of charts on the Internet can help show you when you should be pruning," Feather said.

With clematis, you ignore pruning at your peril, said Dennis Patton, a horticulture agent with Kansas State University Research and Extension at Olathe. "Left untended, they will grow into a tangled mass of vines mixed with new growth. They will be unruly looking. Difficult to manage," he said.

Pruning the tops of the plants brings blooms back down to eye level, Patton said. "If in doubt, don't prune before flowering."

There are many ways to kill clematis, but pruning isn't one of them, Beutler said. "Even if you prune at the wrong time, the only thing that will happen is that you'll set the blooms back by a year."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clematis

- **Group A:** Vigorous spring-blooming varieties, including Alpina, Armandii and Montana varieties. They should be pruned as soon as they finish blooming.
- **Group B:** Large flowered hybrids, such as Nelly Moser, Miss Bateman and Henryi. Prune the tops lightly in February or March. They can be given a second cutting immediately after flowering.
- **Group C:** Late bloomers, including the iconic Jackmani, the Perle d'Azur and Duchess of Albany. They should be pruned in late winter or early spring.

DEAN FOSDICK/AP PHOTO

▶ Clematis flower more profusely after being pruned.

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▶ Trees can wreak havoc to property and power lines when they come down during a storm.

When a tree falls, protect your home and wallet

Trees are a valued addition to a yard But even the healthiest trees can be vulnerable in a violent storm

When a tree came down on the roof of Peter R. Rosenblatt's Washington, D.C., home during a snowstorm this winter, he knew the drill. He'd been through the same thing a few months earlier.

"We called in the insurance company and the roofer and the arborist," he said.

Last year, severe storms caused more than $12 million in U.S. property damage. Although there are no specific statistics on how much of that was caused by falling trees, they are a frequent source of damage to homes and power lines.

Old and diseased trees are vulnerable to high winds and flooding, but even the healthiest trees can come crashing down.

When that happens, says Eric Liskey, deputy garden editor for Better Homes and Gardens, "it sounds like guns going off the way the wood cracks."

The first thing to do is to make sure everyone is OK. "If you feel unsafe, you pretty much need to just leave the property," Liskey said.

If wires are down, call the police and the power company. Then call the insurance company.

Take pictures or video of the damage, if you can.

"You and 500 people are trying to get help," Liskey said. "The officials involved get to it as quickly as they can. There isn't a whole lot to do other than wait it out."

When a tree comes down in a storm and hits a house, garage, deck or fence, the damage is probably covered under a homeowners' policy, less the deductible.

"In an emergency situation, you don't have time to search contractor licences."
BRYAN NOWICKI, OWNER, SELECT RESTORATION

"This is where, when something goes wrong, I want my insurance to work for me," said Mary Ann Cook, who designs course materials for the Institutes, which provides professional development for the risk-management and property-casualty insurance industry.

The insurer can help you find contractors who will quickly cover the roof to prevent further water damage or board up any broken windows. "Remediation services can get out there pronto," Cook said.

"In an emergency situation, you don't have time to search contractor licences or Better Business Bureau reports," said Bryan Nowicki, owner of Select Restoration. "It's the luck of the draw. There are a lot of scam artists who come out when a storm happens."

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Spring into spring with asparagus

This unique flatbread features the light taste of asparagus and avocado Satisfy pizza & salad lovers

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

This Asparagus Flatbread with Avocado Cream is sure to be a crowd pleaser, providing a fusion of pizza and salad.

With vibrant spring colours and bright flavours, it makes a terrific brunch. You can also cut the flatbreads into small squares for an appetizer.

Ingredients:

- 1 ripe avocado
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) milk (approx.)
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) fresh basil leaves
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) each salt and pepper
- Pinch crushed hot pepper flakes
- 16 asparagus spears, trimmed
- Half small red pepper, very thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) very thinly sliced red onion
- 3 thin slices prosciutto, torn into pieces
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 prepared plain flatbreads or focaccia, about 12 x 7–inch (30cm x 18cm)

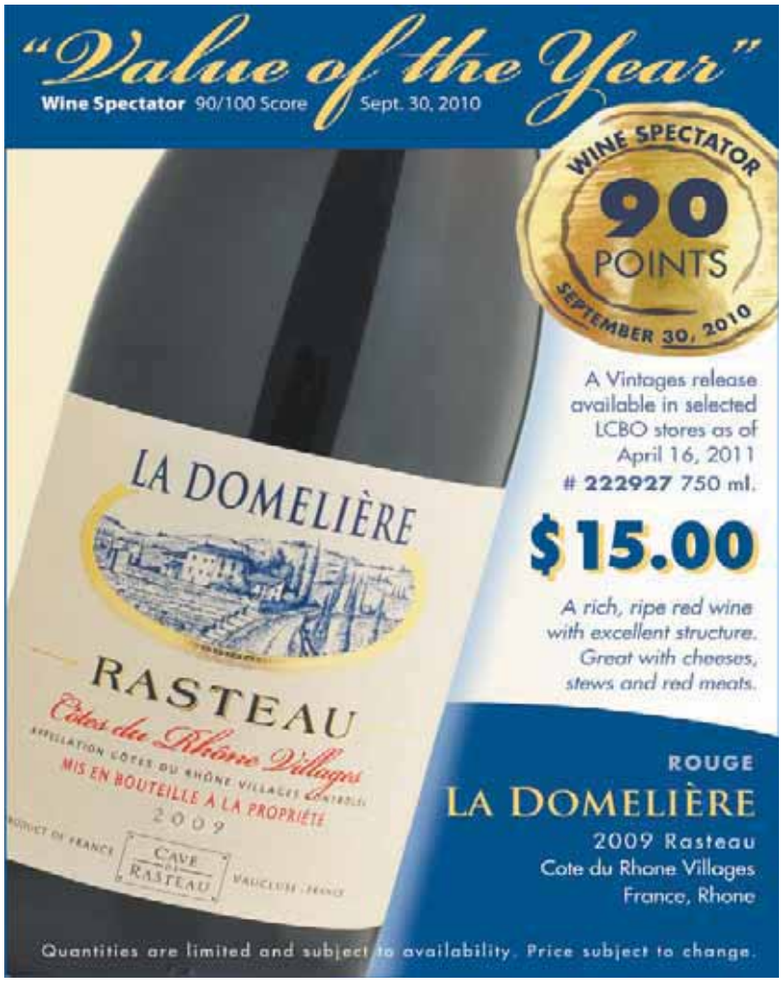
Preparation:

1. In food processor, purée avocado with milk, basil, lemon juice, salt, pepper and pepper flakes until smooth. (Add extra milk as needed to achieve a mixture that is easy to drizzle.)
2. Bring large pot of salted water to boil. Add asparagus; after 1 minute add red pepper and cook for 2 minutes longer. Transfer asparagus and red pepper to an ice water bath; drain and dry well. Cut asparagus in half, lengthwise.
3. Blend oil with garlic and brush over flatbreads; bake in 425 F (220 C) oven for 8 to 10 minutes or until crisp and golden; transfer to a cutting board. Drizzle half of avocado mix over breads. Garnish with asparagus, red pepper, onion and prosciutto; drizzle with additional sauce.

NEWS WORLD CANADA

▶ Substitute prepared flatbreads for store-bought or hommade pizza dough. Roll the dough out to size and increase the baking time to 15 minutes.

NEWS WORLD CANADA EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA.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This classic Asian stir-fry, with its nutty accents, vegetables and chicken, is a great week-night meal

You can make this simple stir-fry for a week-night meal. But its flavours are also special enough for entertaining.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes four servings.

Preparation:

1. In large nonstick skillet, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of the oil over medium heat. Add chicken; cook, stirring often for 5 to 6 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove with slotted spoon; cover and keep warm.
2. Add remaining oil to pan. Add carrots and onions; cook, stirring often for 3 minutes. Stir in mushrooms; cook for 3 minutes. Stir in garlic and ginger; cook for 1 minute. Add broth; cook for 3 minutes or until carrots are tender and broth has evaporated. Stir in cooked chicken and water chestnuts.
3. Sauce: In small bowl, whisk together broth, soy sauce, cornstarch and sesame oil; pour over chicken mixture. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, stirring occasionally for about 4 minutes or until the sauce is thickened. Stir in bean sprouts and green onions; cook for 30 seconds. Transfer to serving platter. Sprinkle cashews over top.

EMILY RICHARDS

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOOD-LAND ONTARIO

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) vegetable oil
- 1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless chicken, cut into 1-inch (2.5 cm) pieces
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) sliced carrots
- 1 cup (250 mL) sliced onions
- 2 cups (500 mL) sliced mushrooms
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) finely minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chicken broth
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) drained, canned sliced water chestnuts
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) bean sprouts
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) unsalted roasted cashews

Sauce:

- 1-1/4 cups (300 mL) chicken broth
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) soy sauce
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) cornstarch
- 2 tsp (10 mL) sesame oil

The best of both worlds

Everyday Flexitarian caters to both vegetarians and meat lovers

If like Nettie Cronish and Pat Crocker you have to appease meat eaters and diehard vegetarians, then their timely cookbook is for you.

Realizing that an estimated 30 to 40 per cent of Canadians are eating less meat, the two writers have compiled Everyday Flexitarian: Recipes for Vegetarians and Meat Lovers Alike (Whitecap Books, $29.95, paperback).

"There is a growing number of people who are eating vegetarian, especially as many meat eaters are mindful of where and how their meat is raised," says Cronish. "They are moving closer to being vegetarian, but they sometimes consume meat, poultry or fish."

Cronish and Crocker believe that Everyday Flexitarian is the perfect guide to feeding today's modern family. The main dishes can be tailored to both the vegetarian and meat eater with instructions on when to separate the vegetarian portions, when to add the meat or fish or what to add instead of meat to retain healthy protein levels.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

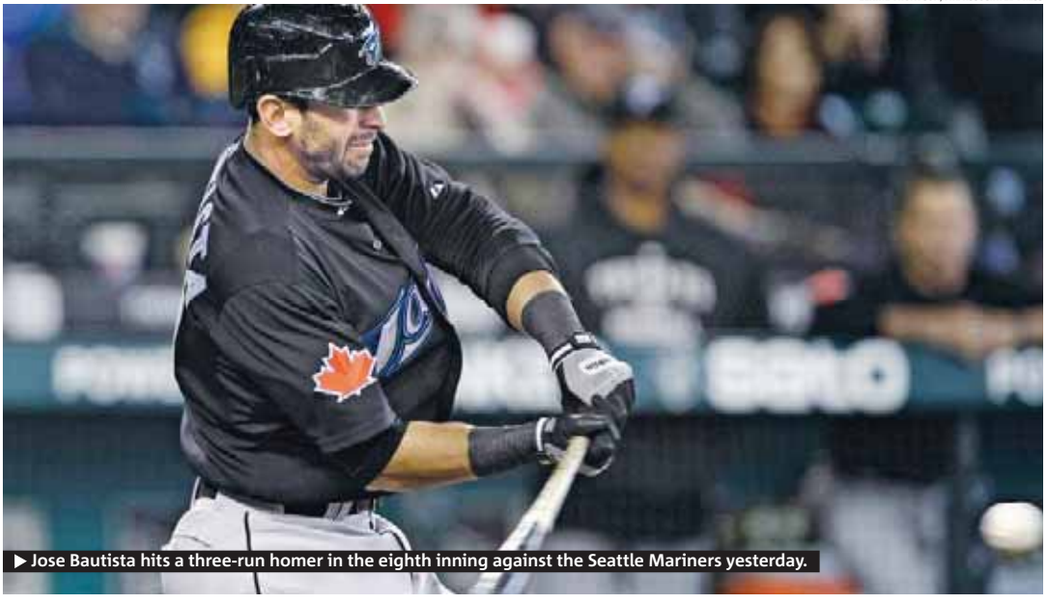
4 sports

Quoted

"Kobe Bryant's comment during last night's game was offensive and inexcusable."

NBA COMMISSIONER DAVID STERN. THE NBA FINED KOBE BRYANT $100,000 US YESTERDAY FOR USING A DEROGATORY GAY TERM WHEN REFEREE BENNIE ADAMS CALLED A TECHNICAL FOUL ON HIM TUESDAY NIGHT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF L.A.'S WIN OVER SAN ANTONIO.

ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Jose Bautista hits a three-run homer in the eighth inning against the Seattle Mariners yesterday.

Jays salvage one against Seattle

Jose Bautista's home run sparks 6-run inning Jays avoid sweep

8	3
BLUE JAYS	MARINERS

Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer off Seattle reliever Chris Ray, part of Toronto's six-run eighth inning, and the Blue Jays avoided a three-game sweep by rallying for an 8-3 win over the Mariners yesterday.

Much to the delight of the many Blue Jays fans that made the drive down from B.C., Bautista unloaded on a 2-1 breaking ball that Ray left in the middle of the plate, hitting it into the Toronto bullpen in left field — where reliever Jon Rauch caught the homer as he was warming up.

It was Bautista's third homer of the season and snapped a 17-inning scoreless streak by the Mariners' bullpen, ruining a strong start by Seattle lefty Jason Vargas.

Toronto's Mark Rzepczynski worked two innings of hitless relief to get the victory.

Toronto has an off day today before closing out a 10-game trip with three at Boston. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So long, Carlos

Former Blue Jay Carlos Delgado gave up yesterday on coming back from a hip injury, announcing his retirement in his native Puerto Rico.

▶ He played 17 major-league seasons, finishing with 473 homers and a .280 batting average.

Raptors slump to finish line

97	79
HEAT	RAPTORS

The Toronto Raptors ended a forgettable season with one final loss yesterday before heading into a summer of uncertainty.

Eddie House poured in 35 points to lead a watered-down version of the Miami Heat to a 97-79 victory over the Raptors yesterday — the finale for Toronto in its third straight season without a playoff appearance.

Jerryd Bayless topped Toronto (22-60) with 21 points, while DeMar DeRozan added 18.

Having already locked up the No. 2 seed in the East, the Heat sat their Big Three — former Raptors captain Chris Bosh, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

What next year holds however is anybody's guess. The threat of a lockout looms large — the collective bargaining agreement is set to expire June 30 — meaning yesterday's game might have been the last at the ACC for some time. Adding to the uncertainty, neither the jobs of head coach Jay Triano, nor president and GM Bryan Colangelo are guaranteed for next season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

PLAYOFFS

All times Eastern

CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Washington (1) vs. N.Y. Rangers (8)
Last night's result
N.Y. Rangers at Washington
Tomorrow's game
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 23
x-N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 3 p.m.
Monday, April 25
x-Washington at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
Wednesday, April 27
x-N.Y. Rangers at Washington, TBA
Philadelphia (2) vs. Buffalo (7)
Tonight's game
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.
Monday's game
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 22
x-Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 24
x-Philadelphia at Buffalo, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26
x-Buffalo at Philadelphia, TBA
Boston (3) vs. Montreal (6)
Tonight's game
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Saturday's game
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Monday's game
Boston at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 21
Boston at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 23
x-Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26
x-Boston at Montreal, TBA
Wednesday, April 27
x-Montreal at Boston, TBA
Pittsburgh (4) vs. Tampa Bay (5)
(Pittsburgh leads 1-0)
Last night's result
Pittsburgh 3 Tampa Bay 0
Tomorrow's game
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Monday's game
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 23
x-Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, TBA
Monday, April 25
x-Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, TBA
Wednesday, April 27
x-Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, TBA
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Vancouver (1) vs. Chicago (8)
Last night's result
Chicago at Vancouver
Tomorrow's game
Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Sunday's game
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Thursday, April 21
x-Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Sunday, April 24
x-Vancouver at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26
x-Chicago at Vancouver, TBA
San Jose (2) vs. Los Angeles (7)
Tonight's game
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Saturday's game
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 21
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 23
x-Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Monday, April 25
x-San Jose at Los Angeles, TBA
Wednesday, April 27
x-Los Angeles at San Jose, TBA
Detroit (3) vs. Phoenix (6)
(Detroit leads 1-0)
Last night's result
Detroit 4 Phoenix 2
Saturday's game
Phoenix at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Monday's game
Detroit at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20
Detroit at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Friday, April 22
x-Phoenix at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 24
x-Detroit at Phoenix, TBA
Wednesday, April 27
x-Phoenix at Detroit, TBA
Anaheim (4) vs. Nashville (5)
Last night's result
Nashville at Anaheim
Tomorrow's game
Nashville at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Anaheim at Nashville, TBA
Wednesday, April 20
Anaheim at Nashville, TBA
Friday, April 22
x-Nashville at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Sunday, April 24
x-Anaheim at Nashville, TBA
Tuesday, April 26
x-Nashville at Anaheim, TBA
x — played only if necessary.

PENGUINS 3, LIGHTNING 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Kubina TB (interference) 9:36, Kennedy Pgh (hooking) 9:50, Moore TB (holding) 11:24, Malone TB (cross-checking) 15:26, Lovejoy Pgh (hooking) 19:01.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Downie TB (hooking) 3:13, Malone TB, Kovalev Pgh (roughing) 8:46.
Third Period
1. Pittsburgh, Kovalev 1 (Neal, Martin) 6:05
2. Pittsburgh, Asham 1 (Letang, Orpik) 6:23
3. Pittsburgh, Kunitz 1 (Staal, Orpik) 19:18 (en)
Penalties — Bergenheim TB (tripping) 7:39, Lundin TB (high-sticking) 9:11.
Shots

Tampa Bay	14	7	11	—32
Pittsburgh	10	18	12	—40

Goal — Tampa Bay: Roloson (L,0-1-0); Pittsburgh: Fleury (W,1-0-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Tampa Bay: 0-1; Pittsburgh: 0-6. **Referees** — Eric Furlatt, Wes McCauley. **Linesmen** — Steve Barton, Steve Miller.
Att. — 18,390 (18,087) at Pittsburgh.

RED WINGS 4, COYOTES 2

First Period
1. Phoenix, Turris 1 (Whitney, Doan) 2:16
Penalties — V.Filppula Det (tripping) 7:53, Lidstrom Det (hooking) 8:22, Abdelkader Det (high-sticking) 11:32, Schlemko Pho (slashing) 12:54, Helm Det (hooking) 18:49.
Second Period
2. Detroit, Datsyuk 1 (Franzen, Holmstrom) 7:38
3. Detroit, Franzen 1, 12:02
4. Detroit, Rafalski 1 (V.Filppula) 18:16 (pp)
Penalties — Eaves Det (hooking) 4:12, Hanzal Pho (holding stick) 5:30, Klesla Pho, Bertuzzi Det (fighting) 10:44, Jovanovski Pho (hooking) 16:54.
Third Period
5. Detroit, Hudler 1 (Miller) 3:16
6. Phoenix, Vrbata 1 (Hanzal, Korpikoski) 7:38
Penalty — Abdelkader Det (interference) 8:16.
Shots

Phoenix	11	8	9	—28
Detroit	9	17	10	—36

Goal — Phoenix: Bryzgalov (L,0-1-0); Detroit: Howard (W,1-0-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Phoenix: 0-6; Detroit: 1-3.
Referees — Paul Devorski, Steve Kozari. **Linesmen** — Tim Nowak, Brian Murphy.
Att. — 20,066 (20,066) at Detroit.

FINAL REGULAR SEASON SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
D.Sedin, Vcr	41	63	104
St. Louis, TB	31	68	99
Perry, Ana	50	48	98
H.Sedin, Vcr	19	75	94
Stamkos, TB	45	46	91
Iginla, Cal	43	43	86
Ovechkin, Wash	32	53	85
Selanne, Ana	31	49	80
Zetterberg, Det	24	56	80
B.Richards, Dal	28	49	77
E.Staal, Car	33	43	76
Toews, Chi	32	44	76
C.Giroux, Pha	25	51	76
Getzlaf, Ana	19	57	76
Kesler, Vcr	41	32	73
Marleau, SJ	37	36	73
Vanek, Buf	32	41	73
Eriksson, Dal	27	46	73
P.Kane, Chi	27	46	73
Kopitar, LA	25	48	73
Ryan, Ana	34	37	71
Sharp, Chi	34	37	71
Ribeiro, Dal	19	52	71
J.Thornton, SJ	21	49	70
Tanguay, Cal	22	47	69
Briere, Pha	34	34	68

TENNIS

ATP MONTE CARLO MASTERS

At Monte Carlo, Monaco
Singles — Second Round
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 6-2, 6-2.
Andy Murray (3), Britain, def. Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-4.
David Ferrer (4), Spain, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 6-2, 6-0.
Tommy Robredo, Spain, def. Fernando Verdasco (6), Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Jurgen Melzer (7), Austria, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.
Gael Monfils (8), France, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 7-5, 6-2.
Nicolas Almagro (9), Spain, def. Maximo Gonzalez, Argentina, 6-7 (6), 7-5, 7-6 (10).
Viktor Troicki (11), Serbia, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
Richard Gasquet (13), France, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-2, 6-1.
Marin Cilic (15), Croatia, def. Pere Riba, Spain, 5-2 (retired).
Gilles Simon (16), France, def. Albert Montanes, Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Frederico Gil, Portugal, def. Florian Mayer, Germany, 7-5, 6-1.
Doubles — Second Round
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Toronto,** def. Richard Gasquet, France, and Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 6-2, 7-5.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	6	4	.600	—
New York	6	4	.600	—
Toronto	6	6	.500	1
Tampa Bay	3	8	.273	3½
Boston	2	9	.182	4½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	8	4	.667	—
Kansas City	7	4	.636	½
Chicago	7	5	.583	1
Detroit	5	7	.417	3
Minnesota	4	7	.364	3½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	9	3	.750	—
Los Angeles	7	5	.583	2
Oakland	6	6	.500	3
Seattle	4	8	.333	5

Yesterday's results
Toronto 8 Seattle 3
L.A. Angels 4 Cleveland 3 (12 innings)
Oakland 7 Chicago White Sox 4 (10 innings)
Kansas City 10 Minnesota 5
Detroit 3 Texas 2
N.Y. Yankees 7 Baltimore 4
Tampa Bay at Boston, ppd.
Wednesday's results
Seattle 3 Toronto 2
Tampa Bay 3 Boston 2
L.A. Angels 2 Cleveland 0
Minnesota 4 Kansas City 3 (10 innings)
Chicago White Sox 6 Oakland 5 (10 innings)
Detroit 5 Texas 4
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, ppd., rain
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Seattle at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.

BLUE JAYS 8, MARINERS 3

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi	Seattle	ab	r	h	bi
YEscor ss	5	1	3	1	ISuzuki rf	5	1	0	0
CPttrsn cf	5	1	2	0	AKndy 2b	4	0	2	0
Bautist rf	5	1	1	3	Bradly lf	5	0	1	1
JRiver lf	3	0	0	0	Cust dh	5	0	1	0
Snider ph-lf	2	1	1	0	Smoak 1b	3	1	1	1
J.Nix 3b	5	1	2	0	Lngrhn cf	2	1	0	0
Arencii dh	4	0	1	1	LRdrgz 3b	3	0	0	0
Encrnc 1b	4	1	1	1	Ryan ss	3	0	1	1
JMcDnl 2b	4	1	0	0	CGmnz c	3	0	1	0
JMolin c	4	1	3	2					
Totals	**41**	**8**	**14**	**8**	**Totals**	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**
Toronto					**001 000 061 8**				
Seattle					**001 001 010 3**				

E—J.Nix (2). LOB—Toronto 9, Seattle 10. 2B—Y.Escobar (1), J.Nix (2), Encarnacion (3), J.Molina 2 (3), Bradley (4). HR—Bautista (3), Smoak (1). SB—Snider (3), J.Nix (2). S—L.Rodriguez.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto						
Drabek	5 2-3	6	2	2	4	5
Rzepczynski W,1-0	2	0	1	1	1	2
Rauch	1 1-3	1	0	0	1	1
Seattle						
Vargas	6 2-3	5	1	1	1	7
J.Wright H,2	1-3	0	0	0	0	1
Ray L,1-1 BS,2-2	2-3	5	5	5	0	0
Lueke	1-3	2	1	1	1	1
Wilhelmsen	1	2	1	1	1	1

WP—Drabek.
Umpires—Home, Wally Bell; First, Laz Diaz; Second, Scott Barry; Third, John Hirschbeck.
T—3:23. A—12,407 (47,878) at Seattle.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	8	3	.727	—
Florida	6	5	.545	2
Washington	5	6	.455	3
Atlanta	5	7	.417	3½
New York	4	7	.364	4

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	8	4	.667	—
Milwaukee	6	5	.545	1½
Chicago	5	6	.455	2½
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	2½
St. Louis	4	7	.364	3½
Houston	3	8	.273	4½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	8	2	.800	—
Los Angeles	6	5	.545	2½
Arizona	5	5	.500	3
San Diego	5	6	.455	3½
San Francisco	5	6	.455	3½

Last night's results
Colorado 5 N.Y. Mets 4
San Diego 3 Cincinnati 2
Milwaukee 6 Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 3 Washington 2
Florida 5 Atlanta 1
Chicago Cubs at Houston
St. Louis at Arizona
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco
Wednesday's results
San Francisco 5 L.A. Dodgers 4
Houston 11 Chicago Cubs 2
Atlanta 5 Florida 0
Washington 7 Philadelphia 4
Arizona 13 St. Louis 8
Cincinnati 8 San Diego 2
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, ppd., rain
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, ppd., rain
Today's games
All times Eastern
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 12:10 p.m., 1st game
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 3:40 p.m., 2nd game
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
Florida at Atlanta, 7:10 p.m.
San Diego at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

Last night's results
Los Angeles 0 Toronto FC 0
Colorado at Real Salt Lake
Tonight's game
All times Eastern
Chicago at Portland, 11 p.m.
Saturday's games
Seattle FC at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Chivas USA at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 7 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Los Angeles at Chicago, 4 p.m.
FC Dallas at Portland, 6 p.m.
New England at Houston, 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 21
New York at D.C. United, 8 p.m.
Friday, April 22
Seattle FC at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Chicago	61	20	.753	—
y-Miami	58	24	.707	3½
y-Boston	56	26	.683	5½
x-Orlando	51	30	.630	10
x-Atlanta	44	38	.537	17½
x-New York	42	40	.512	19½
x-Philadelphia	41	40	.506	20
x-Indiana	37	44	.457	24
Milwaukee	34	47	.420	27
Charlotte	34	48	.415	27½
Detroit	29	52	.358	32
New Jersey	24	57	.296	37
Washington	23	59	.280	38½
Toronto	22	60	.268	39½
Cleveland	19	63	.232	42½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Antonio	61	20	.753	—
y-L.A. Lakers	56	25	.691	5
x-Dallas	56	25	.691	5
y-Oklahoma City	55	26	.679	6
x-Denver	50	32	.610	11½
x-Portland	48	33	.593	13
x-New Orleans	46	35	.568	15
x-Memphis	46	35	.568	15
Houston	43	39	.524	18½
Phoenix	39	42	.481	22
Utah	39	43	.476	22½
Golden State	35	46	.432	26
L.A. Clippers	31	50	.383	30
Sacramento	24	57	.296	37
Minnesota	17	65	.207	44½

x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division; z-clinched conference
Last night's results
Miami 97 Toronto 79
Utah 107 Denver 103
Houston 121 Minnesota 102
Boston 112 New York 102
Charlotte 96 Atlanta 85
Cleveland 100 Washington 93
New Jersey at Chicago
New Orleans at Dallas
Milwaukee at Oklahoma City
Indiana at Orlando
Detroit at Philadelphia
Portland at Golden State
Memphis at L.A. Clippers
San Antonio at Phoenix
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento
END OF REGULAR SEASON
Wednesday's results
Chicago 103 New York 90
Portland 102 Memphis 89
L.A. Lakers 102 San Antonio 93

SOCCER

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

QUARTER-FINALS

Second Leg
Yesterday's results
Schalke (Germany) 2 Inter Milan (Italy) 1 (Schalke advances on 7-3 aggregate)
Tottenham (England) 0 Real Madrid (Spain) 1 (Real Madrid advances 5-0)

SEMI-FINALS

First Leg
Tuesday, April 26
All times Eastern
Schalke vs. Manchester United, 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27
Real Madrid vs. Barcelona, 2:45 p.m.

BRAMPTON WHIRLPOOL CANADA WAREHOUSE CLOSING SALE

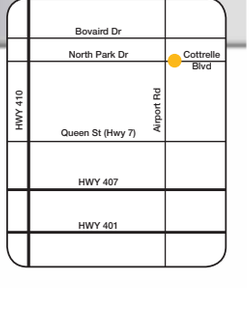
KitchenAid

Saturday, April 16 – Sunday, April 17, 2011 10:00am – 3:00pm
25 Cottrelle Boulevard, Brampton – Off Airport Road, south of Bovaird Drive

Featuring discontinued KitchenAid® small appliances, accessories, tools and gadgets
(stand mixers, food processors, blenders, coffee makers, toasters, spoons, peelers, mixing bowls, knife sets, cutting boards, roasting pans, and more!)

MasterCard, VISA or Interac ONLY – NO CASH OR CHEQUES –

Warehouse closing so *EVERYTHING MUST GO!*
Arrive early to avoid disappointment! NOTE: This is a live warehouse; young children and pets are not permitted.



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CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ David Beckham

TFC earn draw with Beckham's Galaxy

TFC	GALAXY
0	0

Toronto FC extended its unbeaten streak to four games last night by holding star midfielder David Beckham and the Los Angeles Galaxy to a scoreless draw.

Both teams had some good chances in front of a sellout crowd on a chilly evening at BMO Field. There was a buzz at the lakefront stadium for Beckham's first game in Toronto since the 2008 Major League Soccer all-star game.

The Galaxy (2-1-3) captain unveiled a classic free kick in the 70th minute. Beckham curled the ball around the Toronto wall but rang it off the post to the left of goalkeeper Stefan Frei. Toronto substitute Joao Plata had a great chance late in the second half but his header off a free kick was stopped by Donovan Ricketts.

Los Angeles controlled the play early on with midfielder Sean Franklin testing Frei in the opening minute.

It was forward Chad Barrett's first game against Toronto (1-1-3) since he was dealt to the Galaxy in the off-season and he nearly burned his former team in the 12th minute. After Toronto forward Alen Stevanovic was dropped by a hard tackle near midfield, the Galaxy attacked and Barrett's strike from about 20 yards out hit the crossbar and was cleared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wings handle Coyotes in Game 1

RED WINGS	COYOTES
4	2

Pavel Datsyuk and Johan Franzen scored midway through the second period to put the Detroit Red Wings ahead, and they went on to beat the Phoenix Coyotes 4-2 last night in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

Brian Rafalski and Jiri Hudler padded Detroit's lead late in the second period and early in the third.

Jimmy Howard made 26 saves for the third-seeded Red Wings.

Kyle Turris scored 2:16 in to put Phoenix ahead in his playoff debut. Radim Vrbata had a goal midway through the third period to pull the sixth-seeded Coyotes within two goals, but they couldn't get any closer.

Ilya Bryzgalov stopped all nine shots he faced in the first period, but gave up three goals on 17 shots in the second. He finished with 32 saves.

The Red Wings lost their post-season opener last year at Phoenix, where they won Game 7.

Detroit got off to a better start this time in large part because it killed four penalties in the first period — including a 5-on-3 power play that lasted 91 seconds — and dominated the second to build a two-goal lead.

The Red Wings seemed to get energized when Datsyuk tied it 1-1 at 7:38 of the second. He scored on a wraparound off an assist from Franzen, who then scored the go-ahead goal 4½ minutes later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fleury stands tall for Penguins

Short-handed Pittsburgh uses grit and great goaltending to win Game 1

PENGUINS	LIGHTNING
3	0

Alex Kovalev and Arron Asham scored third-period goals 18 seconds apart and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 32 shots to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 3-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first-round playoff opener in Pittsburgh last night.

Chris Kunitz sealed the win with an empty-net goal in the final minute in the Penguins' first post-season game in the Consol Energy Center. Brooks Orpik, who had two assists, set the tone with a heavy and clean check on Lightning star Steven Stamkos to start the game.

Fleury made spectacular saves — including a blind stop on former Penguins forward Ryan Malone in the first period — and shut down the Lightning's high-powered offence. Fleury earned his fifth playoff shutout, one short of tying Tom Barrasso's franchise record.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENE PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury blocks a shot last night by Tampa Bay's Teddy Purcell.

GM Nonis adds talented trio to IIHF world roster

The core of the Canadian team is pretty much intact for the IIHF World Hockey Championship.

John Tavares, Jordan Eberle and Travis Zajac committed yesterday, bringing the number of forwards to 11. Five defencemen and goaltenders James Reimer and Devan Dubnyk have also signed up.

67 New York Islander John Tavares had 67 points in 79 games this season.

That leaves GM Dave Nonis with a few open roster spots, but they likely won't be filled until NHL teams start falling out of the playoffs.

Canada opens the tournament in Kosice, Slovakia, against Belarus April 29.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Bynum injury not serious

NBA. An MRI on L.A. Lakers centre Andrew Bynum yesterday showed only a bone bruise in his troublesome right knee.

The team says he should be able to play this weekend when the Lakers begin their quest for a third straight NBA title.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid rolls past Spurs

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE. Real Madrid beat Tottenham 1-0 yesterday in the Champions League quarter-finals. Cristiano Ronaldo scored the only goal in a win for the Spanish club.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opinion

ADAM PROTEAU
THE HOCKEY NEWS

SUMMER OF INTRIGUE AHEAD

OK, so the Maple Leafs season is over — too soon, as has been the team's habit since the spring of 2004 — and you, as a Buds fan, are wondering where to invest your attention and emotion.

There's no shortage of storylines to follow in Leafs Land, though. Here are three specific areas to keep your eyes on over the summer while you count down the days until the puck drops on another season in the fall:

1. Salary cap saga

Leafs GM Brian Burke is projected to have approximately $21.2 million in available cap space this summer. Some of that will have to go to restricted free agents such as Luke Schenn and Clarke MacArthur, but Toronto still will have a significant amount of money to use either on the unrestricted free agent market, or in trades.

There's no need for Burke to spend it all — in fact, many top teams leave some breathing room for flexibility sake — but the manner in which he utilizes his cap space will play a huge role in determining how the team performs, not just next season, but far beyond.

2. Ron Wilson's contract status

Toronto's head coach didn't want to discuss his future a day after the season ended, but considering he is about to enter the final year of his contract, speculation on that subject will continue to ratchet up until he either has a new contract extension, or the team moves in another direction.

I think Wilson deserves a new deal — the Anaheim Ducks gave Randy Carlyle one this year when his team was positioned out of the playoff mix — but a one- or two-year extension would be best.

3. Draft day dealings

With two first-round selections (belonging to Boston and Philadelphia), the Leafs will be an intriguing team to watch during the NHL draft in Minnesota. Some suspect Toronto might trade one of those picks, along with another player/pick, to move up higher in the draft; another possibility is a straight-up talent-for-talent trade that could land the organization a top-line centre.

In any case, more changes to the Leafs' roster are all but assured and should come on, or near, draft day.

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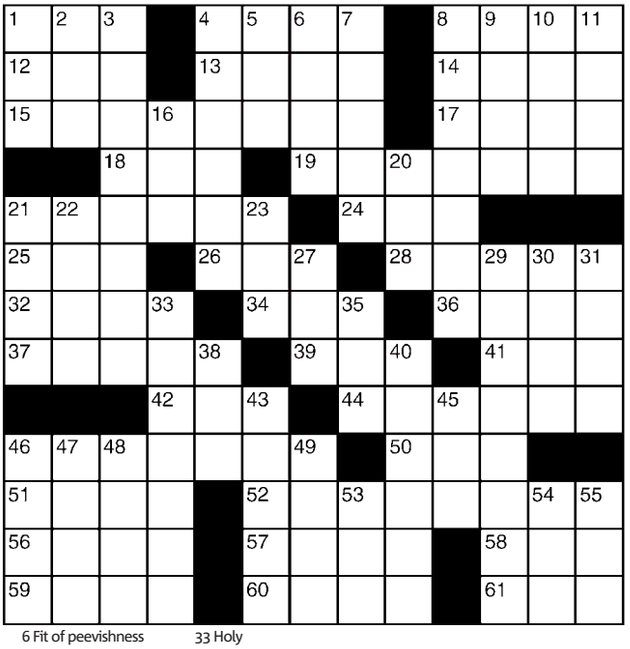

Across

1 Trot
4 Recipe meas.
8 Agents, for short
12 Actress Gardner
13 Top-rated
14 Seed coat
15 Perform upkeep on
17 Capri, e.g.
18 "Kidding!"
19 Adulterated
21 Laundromat fixture
24 Science workshop
25 Slangy suffix
26 Scepter
28 Photo shoot VIP
32 Beams of light
34 Stir-fry pan
36 Test the waters
37 Small plateaus
39 Bro or sis
41 "There's no — team"
42 Charged bit
44 Ate
46 Less distinct
50 Trawler need
51 Oodles
52 "The Mona Lisa," e.g.
56 Caterwaul
57 Teen's woe
58 — de Cologne
59 Convince
60 Fast time?
61 Spinning stat

Down

1 Predicament
2 Eggs
3 Contradicts
4 Rag
5 Squeezing snake
6 Fit of peevishness
7 Punishment-related
8 Spectrum
9 Formerly, formerly
10 Heap
11 Coaster
16 Japanese theater
20 Cartesian conclusion
21 Apple invader
22 Wings
23 Squabble
27 Two, in Tijuana
29 More frilly
30 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
31 Impart for a while
33 Holy
35 Tease
38 Drunkard
40 Easter accessory
43 Kathmandu's land
45 Drench
46 Wray and Weldon
47 "That was — blow!"
48 Corn Belt state
49 "The Amazing —"
53 B&B
54 Siesta
55 Wrigley product

▶ Yesterday's answer

T	H	O		H	A	L	O		Y	E	T	I		
H	E	R		O	W	E	D		E	L	A	N		
A	R	C		O	N	I	O	N	S	K	I	N		
W	R	A	C	K			R	I	M					
			D	A	M	P		B	E	R	E	T		
K	I	N	S	H	A	S	A		N	O	T	E		
O	D	E		S	I	E	N	A		O	U	R		
H	E	A	R		M	U	N	C	H	K	I	N		
L	A	P	U	P		D	O	T	E					
			B	A	S			R	E	B	E	L		
K	I	N	E	S	C	O	P	E		E	A	U		
E	V	E	N		A	R	T	S		A	S	S		
G	E	T	S		B	R	A	S		N	T	H		

Sudoku

		3			1	4		
	5		6	4			3	
7		4	5			2		8
4				6		8	7	
	2		3		7		9	
	7	8		1				2
2		7			9	6		3
	8			3	6		2	
		6	1			9		

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Yesterday's answer ▶

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ROMZ <3

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You have a knack for reading people's body language. Use it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You may want to withdraw into your shell. It would be a waste.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 No matter how busy you are at work, you must free up time to spend with your friends.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A throwaway remark might not be meant seriously but certain people will take it seriously, so be careful what you say.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Make it your business to find out why certain people are behaving erratically. You'll be surprised.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You'll start to see solutions where before you saw problems.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Do you get involved in a dispute that is none of your business? You better decide quickly.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you can get others to do a large slice of your work for you today then do so.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 If you need help today, ask for it. Don't wait for others to notice you're having a hard time.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Others will sense your confidence and offer to do things for you. Why deny them?

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You'll find it easy to express yourself. Others will get you.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You'll hear something that pleases you. Don't be suspicious of it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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